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FEDERAL ROLE IN CHILD CARE

HEARING

BEFORE A

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

SPECIAL HEARING

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FEDERAL ROLE IN CHILD CARE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1988

U.S. Senate,
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies,
Committee on Appropriations,
Las Vegas, NV.

The subcommittee met at 10 a.m., in the Wright Hall Auditorium, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV, Hon. Harry Reid presiding.

Present: Senator Reid.

NONDEPARTMENTAL WITNESSES

Senator Reid. This hearing will come to order.

Would everyone stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, which will be led by Nicole.

[Pledge of Allegiance]

Imagine for a moment you are 7 years old, running home after completing your first day of second grade. Bursting with excitement, you run up to the front door. Twenty years ago this scenario would have ended with mom waiting at the door with a glass of milk and a plate of cookies, anxious to hear about your day.

Today, chances are our 7-year-old will open the door with his own key and spend the next 2 or 3 hours alone. By the time mom or dad gets home, the child's excitement has naturally dimmed and the parents are too preoccupied to really be able to enjoy his news.

This situation falls somewhere in the middle of the spectrum of child care dilemmas facing our Nation. At one end is the mother who works not because she has to, but because she enjoys pursuing her career. She can afford quality care for her children.

At the other end of the spectrum is the single mother on welfare who wishes to work but cannot afford child care because it would eat up most of her paycheck. If she's lucky she and her kids have a home.

Look into the eyes of one homeless child. Now multiply the despair and alienation you see by 1 million. That's right, more than 1 million kids in this Nation have no place to call home. And one-half are under the age of five.

There's simply no place in the English language for phrases like "homeless families" and "throw-away kids." But their ranks seem certain to grow unless we take action now to keep families together and thriving.

Today we'll hear about the extreme cases, as well as the child care predicaments that fall in between these extremes. We'll examine the Federal Government's role in making certain our children do not drown in the economic quagmire we have created. We must ensure our children do not suffer because of the financial realities that have forced so many mothers into the work force.

Resistance to Federal involvement and child care stems from our cultural belief that children are best raised in their own homes by their own parents. And the last Federal effort at comprehensive child care policy was vetoed in 1971 by Richard Nixon, who feared such legislation would weaken the family and lead to the Sovietization of our children.

American children of working parents have not been Sovietized. But in many cases they have been traumatized. They have been left alone to fend for themselves. They have been given at 8 and 9 years old the responsibility of caring for even younger brothers and sisters. They have been left in substandard, crowded, unlicensed centers. They have been abused and killed in what cannot be called child care facilities. And they have even died alone at home.

We are guilty of enduring a national policy of child carelessness. We must now be responsible for endorsing a national policy of child care.

Our children—no, our country and its collective conscience cannot afford much more debate on the need for Federal participation.

A quick look at this chart which is in front of me, to the front of each of you, shows in the United States the days of "Ozzie and Harriet" or "Leave it to Beaver" rarely exist today except in TV reruns. Only 10 percent of American families fit the traditional mold with dad the sole breadwinner and mom at home.

Instead, more than one-half of the children under five in America have mothers who work. One-half of all married mothers with infants are in the work force. That's a 108-percent increase since 1970. By 1995—remember it's 1988 now—two-thirds of all preschool children will have mothers who work. For school-age children that number will be four out of five. Most parents work out of economic necessity. A New York Times poll reveals that more than 70 percent of working women do so to support their families, not for something interesting to do.

The Act for Better Child Care, which I have cosponsored, is one of several legislative efforts aimed at addressing the dire need for child care today. This legislation is prochildren. In the ideal world these families would have a safety net to fall back on, a network of family and friends to bestow loving care on their kids. But for the majority it is simply not realistic to rely on such support. For many parents in a transient State like Nevada, that support system within the family circle simply does not exist. Instead we must look outside the home and family and still guarantee quality, compassion, and care.

The ABC bill, as it is called, would make care more affordable to low- and moderate-income families. It would increase the number of facilities and trained staff to make services available to those most in need. And it would improve the quality of child care services and give parents a range of options to choose from.

The act calls for a first year $2.5 billion investment to enable the Federal Government to form a partnership with the States and the private sector.

That's less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the Federal budget. That's less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the entire Federal budget. We spend $3.5 billion a year to protect our endangered species. One aircraft carrier alone costs $18 billion. An investment now in our children's future will actually save taxpayers countless dollars.

The House Select Committee on Children reports that for every $1 spent on programs for children, we avoid $4.75 in costs to the criminal justice, welfare, and education systems. The cost of inaction is exorbitant.

This legislation is probusiness. American women are in the work force permanently. Surveys of female employees consistently rank child care as a critical issue. Worries about day care reduce productivity, increase absenteeism, and greatly increase employee stress. Many experts predict by the mid-1990's child care benefits will be as common as retirement plans, with 90 percent of businesses employing more than 100 persons providing some assistance.

Of the 44,000 businesses today that employ more than 100 people, only 3,000 offer child care benefits. But that's up from just 400 businesses only 5 years ago.

The reality is that between now and 1990, two-thirds of entrants into the labor force will be women. Let me repeat that. The reality is that between now and 1990, less than 2 years, two-thirds of entrants into the labor force will be women. A tidal wave of demographic changes is rapidly approaching our shores. The sweeping changes it will bring will force the business world into action.

Finally, and most important, this legislation is profamily. For many families, affordable child care means the difference between gainful employment and ending up on welfare rolls. No parent in this country should be forced to decide between providing meals and purchasing child care.

This hearing is being held under the auspices of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee and has been approved by Chairman John Stennis of Mississippi.

This is the first of many hearings on child care that will be held throughout the country. Information we gather here today will be transcribed by the court reporter and taken to the committee in Washington.

With your input we can determine how the Federal Government can best assist the States, local entities, providers, parents, and most of all the children.

The response to this hearing has really been overwhelming. Anyone who wished to testify but has been unable to do so or is unable to do so because of the limited time here today, some 3 hours, we ask that you submit your remarks for the record, which will be kept open until February 29 and could be submitted through my office.

Thank you, each of you, for attending here today. I appreciate your concern.

The first witness today will be the Honorable Richard Bryan, Governor of the State of Nevada.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD H. BRYAN, GOVERNOR, STATE OF NEVADA

PREPARED STATEMENT

Mr. BRYAN. Senator Reid, thank you very much for providing me the opportunity to be here today and share with you for the benefit of your colleagues, the State's perspective. I congratulate you and the Appropriations Committee for authorizing these important hearings to be conducted here in Las Vegas.

Because there are many that want to testify, I'm going to keep my remarks abbreviated, but I ask a copy of my remarks be included in your record.

Senator REID. That will be the order.

[The statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF RICHARD H. BRYAN

I AM PLEASED TO BE HERE TODAY AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT SENATOR HARRY REID AND THE OTHER SPONSORING SENATORS IN GAINING SUPPORT FOR THE ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE. I ALSO WANT TO THANK YOU FOR HOLDING THIS IMPORTANT HEARING IN LAS VEGAS.

AS NEVADA'S POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW AND MORE MOTHERS ENTER THE WORKPLACE, THERE IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE A NEED FOR QUALITY CHILD CARE WHICH ALL FAMILIES CAN AFFORD. TODAY WE SEE FAMILIES AT EVERY INCOME LEVEL STRUGGLE TO SECURE THE QUALITY OF CHILD CARE THEY WANT FOR THEIR CHILD AND PAY FOR IT. THE ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE IS ONE VEHICLE BY WHICH OUR NATION CAN UNDERSCORE THE FACT CHILD CARE IS AN IMPORTANT COMPONENT IN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDREN AND ACT TO SUPPORT THIS PREMISE.

NOWHERE IS CHILD CARE MORE OF A BARRIER TO ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE THAN AMONG LOW-INCOME FAMILIES AND ESPECIALLY THOSE SINGLE MOTHERS TRYING TO SEVER THEIR DEPENDENCE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

NEVADA, RATHER THAN BEING UNIQUE, IS IN FACT A MICROCOSM OF PHENOMENA OBSERVED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. EVEN THOUGH THE PERCENTAGES ARE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THERE ARE STILL APPROXIMATELY ONE IN FOUR HOUSEHOLDS AND ONE IN SEVEN FAMILIES HEADED BY WOMEN. MANY OF THESE WOMEN ARE

TRAPPED IN OUR PUBLIC WELFARE SYSTEM WHICH PROVIDES FEW ROUTES TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE -- AND EVEN FEWER FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

THE 1987 NEVADA LEGISLATURE APPROVED LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE WELFARE DIVISION TO INSTITUTE AN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM TO HELP THESE YOUNG WOMEN BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT. ALTHOUGH OUR PROGRAM IS RELATIVELY NEW, WE KNOW IF AN AID TO DEPENDENT CHILDREN (ADC) CLIENT IS EVER TO BREAK FREE OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE THERE MUST BE A "SOCIAL CONTRACT" BETWEEN THE CLIENT AND GOVERNMENT. AT MINIMUM, THE CLIENT MUST COMMIT HERSELF TO LEARNING NEW SKILLS, ACQUIRING A JOB AND EXECUTING THAT JOB TO THE BEST OF HER ABILITY. GOVERNMENT, ON THE OTHER HAND, MUST COMMIT ITS RESOURCES TO PROVIDING, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:

1) CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT
2) MEDICAL COVERAGE
3) AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

NEVADA HAS A STRONG CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM ESTABLISHING PARENTAGE, COURT ORDERS FOR SUPPORT, AND ENFORCING THOSE SUPPORT ORDERS FOR PUBLIC AND NON-PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HOUSEHOLDS ALIKE.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL SCHOOLS BOTH IN RENO AND LAS VEGAS AND MEDICAID POST-ADC POLICIES, WE ARE

NOW ABLE TO OFFER CLIENTS EXTENDED MONTHS OF MEDICAL COVERAGE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN WHEN THEY LEAVE THE ADC PROGRAM.

CHILD CARE IS THE ONE MAJOR BARRIER LEFT UNATTENDED. AND IT IS A CRITICAL BARRIER BECAUSE IT SHARPLY REDUCES SPENDABLE INCOME. FOR EXAMPLE, OUR WELFARE STAFF IS PROUD THAT OUR CLIENTS ARE AVERAGING IN EXCESS OF $6.00 AN HOUR IN THE JOBS IN WHICH THEY'RE PLACED--NEARLY DOUBLE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE. AND YET WHEN THE CHILD CARE EXPENSE IS DEDUCTED AT A MINIMUM COST OF #1.50 AN HOUR FOR ONE CHILD, THE FAMILY IS LEFT WITH A POVERTY-LEVEL EXISTENCE. WITH HALF NEVADA'S ADC HOUSEHOLDS HAVING MORE THAN ONE CHILD TO CARE FOR, THE COST BECOMES PROHIBITIVE.

WHILE AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE IS MOST OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH EMPLOYMENT ISSUES, WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHILD CARE AND THE EVER-INCREASING CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT STATISTICS.

IN CALENDAR YEAR 1986, 7,282 ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTS WERE RECEIVED BY NEVADA CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICE AGENCIES. OF THESE, 3,679 OR 52.6% WERE SUBSTANTIATED. IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU THAT 41.6% OF THE ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN WERE REPORTED DUE TO "LACK OF SUPERVISION" WHICH INCLUDES YOUNG CHILDREN LEFT HOME ALONE, LATCH-KEY CHILDREN AND CHILDREN LOCKED OUT OF THE HOME.

AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE SHOULD HELP TO REDUCE THIS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH 41.6% STATISTIC. ADDITIONALLY, IT WILL SAVE THE TAXPAYERS MONEY IN NOT HAVING TO BRING A CHILD INTO THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM--WHICH COSTS CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN PROVIDING ADC, FOOD STAMPS AND MEDICAID.

BUT MORE IMPORTANT THAN ALL THE STATES' BUDGETS COMBINED IS THE FACT THAT CHILDREN SUFFER WHEN THEY ARE REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES.

IF WE ARE TRULY COMMITTED TO PRESERVING THE AMERICAN FAMILY, AND IF WE ARE TRULY COMMITTED TO REDUCING THE APPALLING NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN POVERTY IN THIS COUNTRY, THEN WE MUST SUPPORT A PROGRAM THAT DOES JUST THAT.

NEVADA IS COMMITTED. TODAY I AM ANNOUNCING THAT $660,000 ARE BEING PLEDGED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF ASSISTING WOMEN, WHO HAVE SECURED A JOB AND LEFT PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ROLLS, WITH THEIR CHILD CARE COSTS. THE FIRST FEW MONTHS OF TRYING TO ESTABLISH ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE ARE CRITICAL AND DIFFICULT IF A FAMILY IS EMERGING FROM A PERIOD OF LITTLE OR NO INCOME. WITH CONTINUED CHILD SUPPORT, MEDICAL COVERAGE AND CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE, THEY CAN ACCUMULATE A RESOURCE BASE ON WHICH TO FIRMLY ESTABLISH THEIR LIVES.

THE FOOD STAMP INCENTIVE MONIES CAME FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE. NEVADA WAS REWARDED FOR ACHIEVING A LOW PROGRAM ERROR RATE.

THIS FINANCIAL REWARD, RECEIVED BY ONE PROGRAM IN THE STATE WELFARE DIVISION FOR A "JOB WELL DONE," CANNOT BE BETTER SPENT THAN IN AIDING THE CLIENTS WE HAVE PLEDGED TO HELP.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS A TEMPORARY MEASURE WHICH WILL ADDRESS ONLY A PORTION OF THE NEEDS IN NEVADA. THE ACT FOR BETTER CHILD CARE, IF APPROVED BY CONGRESS, WILL HELP RELIEVE THESE PROBLEMS BY:

- MAKING CHILD CARE MORE AFFORDABLE FOR ALL LOW AND MODERATE INCOME FAMILIES--NOT JUST THOSE ON PUBLIC ASSISTANCE;
- INCREASING THE NUMBER OF CHILD CARE FACILITIES AND QUALIFIED DAY CARE STAFF AVAILABLE TO ALL FAMILIES;
- IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF CHILD CARE; AND
- COORDINATING CHILD CARE RESOURCES TO ENSURE EFFICIENT USE AND HELP MAKE A WIDE RANGE OF CHILD CARE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO PARENTS.

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY SUPPORT FOR THIS VITAL LEGISLATION AND I COMMEND YOU FOR RECOGNIZING THE IMPACT THIS WILL HAVE ON AMERICA'S FAMILIES OF TODAY AND TOMORROW.

Mr. **Bryan**. As Nevada's population continues to grow and more mothers enter the workplace, there is and will continue to be a need for quality child care which all families can afford.

Today we see families at every income level struggle to secure the quality of child care they want for their child and still be able to afford it. The Act for Better Child Care is one vehicle by which our Nation can underscore the fact that child care is an important component in the lives of our children and act to support this premise.

Nowhere is child care more of a barrier to economic independence than among low-income families, especially those single mothers trying to sever their dependence on public assistance programs.

Nevada, rather than being unique, is, in fact, the microcosm of a phenomena observed at the national level. Even though the percentages here are slightly less than at the national level there still are approximately one in four households and one in seven families headed by women. Many of these women are trapped in our public welfare system, which provides few routes to a brighter future and even fewer to their children.

The 1987 legislature, at my request, approved legislation requiring the State's welfare division to institute an employment and training program to help these young women become self-sufficient. Although the program is relatively new, we know if an aid to dependent children [ADC] client is ever to break free of public assistance, there must be a social contract between client and government.

At minimum the client must commit herself to learning new skills, acquiring a job, and executing that job to the best of her ability.

Government, on the other hand, must commit its resources to providing at least the following elements: Child support enforcement, medical coverage, and affordable child care.

Nevada has a strong child support enforcement program, establishing parentage, court orders for support, and enforcing the support orders for public and nonpublic assistance households alike. And the university medical school is providing clients opportunities for medical coverage for themselves and their children when they leave the ADC program.

Child care, however, is the one major barrier left unattended. It is a critical barrier because it sharply reduces spendable income.

For example, our welfare staff is proud that our clients are averaging in excess of $6 an hour at jobs in which they are placed. It's nearly double the minimum wage. And yet when the child care expense is deducted at a minimum cost of $1.50 an hour per child, the family is left with a poverty level existence.

With one-half of Nevada ADC households having more than one child to care for, the cost becomes prohibitive. While affordable child care is most often associated with employment issues, we should not forget the relationship between child care and the ever increasing child abuse and neglect statistics.

In the calendar year 1986, 7,282 abuse and neglect reports were received by Nevada child protective service agencies. Of these, 3,679, or 52.6 percent were substantiated. It may be of interest to you and your colleagues that 41.6 percent of the abused and neglected children were reported due to lack of supervision, which includes young children left home alone, latchkey children, and children locked out of their home.

Affordable child care should help to reduce this extraordinarily high statistic.

Additionally, it will save the taxpayers money in not having to bring a child into the welfare system, which costs considerably more than providing ADC, food stamps, and Medicaid. But more important than all the States' budgets combined is the fact children suffer when they are removed from their homes. If we are truly committed to preserving the American family and if we are truly committed to reducing the appalling number of children in poverty in this country, then we must support a program that does just that.

Nevada is committed. We will ask the interim finance committee shortly to approve $660,000. That money will be pledged for the specific purpose of assisting women who have secured a job and left public assistance roles with their child care cost. The first few months of trying to establish an economic independence are critical and difficult if a family is emerging from a period of little or no income. With continued child support, medical coverage, and child care assistance, they can accumulate a resource base on which to firmly establish their lives.

The Act for Better Child Care, if approved by Congress, will help relieve these problems by making child care more affordable for all low- and moderate-income families, not just those in public assistance; increasing the number of child care facilities and qualified day care staff available to these families; improving the quality of child care and coordinating child care resources to insure efficient use; and to help make a wide range of child care options available to parents.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you for the opportunity to express my support. And I wish you and your colleagues well in enacting this vital piece of legislation to help preserve American families.

Senator REID. Governor Bryan, I appreciate your outstanding testimony. And it goes without saying, I wish you well before the interim finance committee.

Mr. BRYAN. Thank you very much, Mr. chairman.

STATEMENTS OF:

DIANA CYBIL
JULIA DAVIS
LASHONA HENRY
DEBORAH G. MAYS
MURIEL HOUSER
RUTHIE BRADFORD

Senator REID. The rules of this hearing, each witness will be given 5 minutes to testify.

If the witnesses in the next panel would approach, that is, Lashona Henry, Diana Cybil, Julia Davis, and Deborah Mays, if you would take your stands at the podium, that would be appreciated.

We have a timekeeper seated behind me. Mary, would you stand so they'll know who you are.

Mary will keep track of each witness' time. When you have 1 minute left, she'll raise the red flag.

At this hearing we are going to have to adhere to the time constraints that we have. I know sometimes it's difficult. But if you could help me with that, it would sure be appreciated.

I've missed a number of witnesses. We have also here today Launa Lemke, Jane Marrimon, Ruthie Bradford, Delores Argonez, Muriel Houser, Mary Mosby, Olivia Pimbert, and Denise James.

Those individuals I first mentioned, it's my understanding, will be the spokespersons for this group.

The first witness will be Diana Cybil.

Move the microphone in front of you, please.

STATEMENT OF DIANA CYBIL

Ms. CYBIL. Good morning.

My name is Diana Cybil. I'm a resident of Las Vegas now for almost 20 years. I have been on the ADC for almost 2 years, since my divorce, with my two sons.

When I found out about this program I was thrilled to know I could go back into the work field. Only because of the child care did I accept to go on with this program.

My main reason for not working and staying at home with my children was because of not having the child care.

Now that I am working and receiving child care, it's given me the incentive to go on and make something of my life and for my kids. But if we lose this program here with the ADC, when I get off of it, when I find a job, it will not be beneficial to me or my children to go on with the work field. More or less stay on ADC.

This program can be beneficial to each and every one of us. If they had more programs for single parents such as this, more people possibly would not be on ADC and need the help of the State. It's something that's very important to all of our families.

Thank you very much.

Senator REID. Thank you, Diana.

Next witness we'll hear from is Julia Davis.

STATEMENT OF JULIA DAVIS

Ms. DAVIS. Good morning.

Senator REID. If each of you would move that microphone a little closer.

Ms. DAVIS. I'm a resident of Las Vegas. I've been here 2 years.

I am here to talk about child care. Because of the very difficult marriage that ended in divorce which left me as a single parent, I have two kids. I had no other choice but to apply for ADC. →

Through ADC I got on the work program. I'm getting good training, but once the training is over I'll be prepared to get a job.

But once you get a job, you lose all your benefits and child care will still be a major problem.

If child care was available years ago I wouldn't be on ADC now.

I don't want to be on ADC. And there are many others on ADC that feel the same way that I do.

I want to work but the child care expenses will be at least one-half or more of my pay. The system, the way it is now, won't allow me into the work field.

Thank you.

Senator REID. Thank you very much.

I'll have some questions of both of you, but we'll finish with the panel first.

Lashona, would you tell us some of your experiences.

Would you move the microphone over, please.

STATEMENT OF LASHONA HENRY

Miss HENRY. Thank you.

My name is Lashona. And some of my experience is—OK, like when we get out of school you see some kids around where I live at. People are selling drugs to the kids and, you know, the parents are off at work.

And we need a day care center for the kids to go to until their moms get off from work.

So we need to have a day care established because you wouldn't like your kids around pushing drugs, pushing drugs onto other kids and kids dying because of different drugs being pushed on and different diseases. Our parents need to work and sometimes kids cannot be around some of our parents because of things that's going on.

Like parents in a divorce, they need time with their kids in a day care center but I think we really do need a day care center for the kids to go into and stop drugs from being pushed around.

Senator REID. Thank you.

Deborah Mays.

STATEMENT OF DEBORAH MAYS

Ms. MAYS. I'm Deborah Mays.

Senator REID. Move that microphone a little closer. I'm sorry.

Ms. MAYS. I'm Deborah G. Mays.

I've been on welfare for 7 years. I have three children and I'm a single mother.

I went and signed up for the State of Nevada work program. After the 4 months of volunteer time, volunteering my time there for job training, they have day care. After that going out for a job and then getting one with no day care is a big problem.

Then you sit and wonder how do I work and worry about my kids and who has them? And what should I do? Babysitter to babysitter?

Coming home, don't know what to expect if the babysitter is drunk, passed out, kids are babysitting the babysitter.

Then when the babysitter is gone, what do you do? Have neighbors come in? Teenagers? Ransack your place, go through your belongings, going through your personal life of your family, questioning the kids.

On your days off go back to work, the employer has calls from the sitters that you had in your home stating that you're not coming to work, you have quit your job. Going back and saying what are you talking about? I'm here.

There's a big list and I could go on.

And the problem of it is having a babysitter, going out looking for a babysitter. I went through bulletin boards, laundromats, I went to schools, asked mothers for help for my children so I could work.

One thing I did come across. They were looking for day care as I was, and I could not afford to pay them.

I have called one place from a laundromat, a licensed day care, in a mother's home. Twenty-four dollars a day for three children. I cannot afford that, even though I was making over $3.35 an hour. Even though I was making much more than $3.35 an hour.

It was a very hard experience, especially being by yourself.

And we do need day care for single mothers to go to work. And we do not want to stay on welfare, I do know that. And I'm speaking for a lot of mothers I know who feel the same way. Very much so.

And I have come a long way, I have seen a lot, I've been there. And I'm telling you from my heart for a lot of mothers here, that after the depression, pulling yourself out, we have come a long way. Very much so.

PREPARED STATEMENTS

Senator REID. Deborah, thank you very much.

[The statements follow:]

STATEMENT OF DEBORAH G. MAYS

After seven years with three children, as a single parent, just existing, yet trying to get off welfare, this is what I did.

I signed up for the State of Nevada work program. Then I realized I needed more help because I could not read well enough to understand how to fill out the necessary forms. I told my worker that I needed help and she got me enrolled in both the Community Work Experience Program (CWEP) and the Computer Assisted Literacy in Libraies program (CALL). CALL helped me to better my spelling, reading, and writing skills. CWEP placed me in the Senior Nutrition Center kitchen for job training. I was required to volunteer a specified number of hours each week and CWEP provided day care for my three children. After I completed enough volunteer hours, CWEP planned to assist me in job placement. After four months of training, I was able to qualify for a position at the Imperial Palace. However, I was no longer eligible for CWEP day care. CWEP had no provisions for child care after you had completed your job training and were employed. My worker informed me there were no day care assistance programs available. WIN, the Work Incentive program, was no longer helping because of lack of funds. So, I had a job but no child care.

I began my search for a babysitter, with three kids by my side and no money, at the grocery store bulletin boards. The boards were full of ads from other single mothers also in need of sitters. I also searched many laundromats and found the same thing. There were lots of ads from others in need of care providers.

I did find one ad for licensed day care in a private home. The charge was $24/day for three children. I was making $6.78/hour, (which is twice as much as many other single mothers earn), and still I could not afford to pay out half of my paycheck for a babysitter and pay my bills and household expenses. I just could not afford to do it!

I checked the senior citizen job referral listings and the jobs requested list. I found that there were many others requesting sitters but apparently no seniors interested. I telephoned local churches, talked to school officials, and to other parents and found only that the child care dilemma was nothing new. I knew it would be difficult but I found the problem unbelievable and out of control.

I placed an ad in the newspaper, for a sitter to come to my home. I received calls from other people asking what type of response I got from my ad and they wanted to know if I could help them. Finally, I found someone willing to work with me according to my ability to pay.

Still there were many other child care problems that came up. I didn't even know what to expect when I came home. I didn't know if my children would be fed, bathed, safe from neighborhood bullies and off the street or babysitting the babysitter! I had to put up with people and situations that I didn't want to in order to keep child care services so I could keep my job.

Sometimes, when my main sitter was not available, I had to rely of neighborhood teenagers. Some months, I would have several different sitters. With each sitter, there was a new set of problems! My home was ransacked and things came up missing. Groceries disappeared from my shelves. Meals

I prepared for my children were fed to others while my children went without supper. My job was threatened by harrassing phone calls to my employer. Every day it was something different. There was even a jealousy problem because some neighbors could see I was getting ahead. Some of the sitters questioned the children about our personal lives. I have put up with unreasonable attitudes and irresponsible behavior so I could work and stay off welfare.

At one point, my children insisted that I stay home with them. They promised to clean yards to pay the bills so they would not have to deal with the parade of sitters. My children did not understand when I told them it was time for us to move up and that all of these problems were a part of the process. It is much harder on me because I know I am fighting for our survival.

I am also concerned about the reoccurring normal medical expenses of the working poor families. Government medical benefits are cancelled even when their paycheck is only slightly more then a welfare grant. I have been unable to keep up with medical costs in addition to child care and household bills.

Also, I propose that we organize the Nevada State Work Program to include a 24-hour co-op day care and job training center for use by both low income families and single parents.

My testimony represents the problems of many other women, both those on A.D.C. and the working poor. Our children don't understand the way we must live. We need assistance with job training, education and child care. It is my main concern that the ABC Bill (Act for Better Child Care), if passed, will first benefit those families on A.D.C. and the working poor who earn less than $13,000/year.

STATEMENT OF LAUNA S. LEMKE

As a member of Panel 2 of the witnesses for the Senate Appropriations Committee Field Hearing on Child Care (Saturday February 13, 1988) I would like to submit the following to be entered into the record:

I am a single parent with three children at home to support. I am currently on AFDC which provides a grant of $359.00 a month (just under $90.00 a month per person). I have been caught in the system, being unable to pay for child care even at an above minimum wage job. If I go to work I only earn enough to pay for child care for my three children with little money left over for food, shelter, medical, transportation or clothing.

The cost of child care for my infant alone would be $300.00 to $325.00 a month here in Las Vegas. I have begun to attend college again as a junior last semester on the Pell grant. IT IS TRAGIC THAT SO MANY WHO COULD GET EDUCATION ON THE PELL AND OTHER GRANTS ALREADY IN PLACE CANNOT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE BECAUSE THERE IS NO WAY TO AFFORD CHILD CARE WHILE ATTENDING CLASSES. It seems almost hopeless for many women who want to find a way to get off public assistance. I am able to schedule classes two days a week but see a tremendous need to help mothers with child care so they can REGAIN DIGNITY AND AUTONOMY.

I was formerly a licensed child care provider in a family day care home in Utah and in Nevada. I offered 24-hour care but am unable to be a day care provider because of poverty conditions imposed by divorce which prevent me from owning a home to pursue that occupation. I studied child develeopement and education in college, and I love children. We who are unwillingly unemployed need affordable child care desperately.

In summary:

1) We cannot earn enough to afford child care.

2) We cannot afford child care to attend college.

3) The programs that train us for jobs only offer minimum wage and cannot come close to the $6,000.00 on $7,000.00 per year needed for child care alone for two children.

Thank you for addressing this issue and accepting our imput for the record.

Senator REID. I think it's important that the record reflect that we have seated at the witness table eight individuals. We have seven women and one young lady.

Lashona, how old are you?

Miss HENRY. Twelve.

Senator REID. I think the record should also reflect that one of the difficulties we have had in arranging witnesses for this panel, we could bring people in all day who have had experiences similar to each of you; isn't that right?

Miss HENRY. Yes.

Senator REID. And I think an important statement that you made, Deborah Mays, is that you were having significant difficulties and you were making almost twice as much as minimum wage; isn't that right?

Ms. MAYS. Yes.

Senator REID. So you can imagine how difficult it would be for you if you'd been making one-half—only one-half as much.

Ms. MAYS. I know, because I have done it.

Senator REID. Each of you have expressed a concern that this bill about which this hearing is held, this ABC bill, would help those on ADC or aid to dependent children. And it does. It, in effect, helps those who earn less than $13,000 a year. That's one of the reasons the bill was initiated, to help the working poor.

I appreciate the courage of each of you coming here. I know it's not easy to come in and acknowledge that you have had difficulties, we have TV cameras here.

As each of you have stated to my staff in helping to arrange this testimony, you recognized it would be embarrassing, it would be difficult to do. But each of you have stated that you're doing it because you've had a serious problem and you want to make some effort that others won't have your same problem; isn't that right?

Ms. MAYS. Yes.

Senator REID. I was interested in going over the testimony that had been prepared by one—with my staff interviewing one of you, to the affect how difficult it is to find a babysitter or babysitters.

Would some of you relate how difficult it has been to find a babysitter.

Ms. HOUSER. My name is Muriel Houser. And one of the things I found as far as babysitting, I do have some statistics which states that a family of two earns $770 to $1,208 a month.

Now, I don't know who did the statistics but from my standpoint and from where I've been, a family of four earns that type of money. And the day care, the lowest day care that I found, charged you $40 a week. Now, if you have more than one child, that means that that's doubled. They are not allowing the cost for food, adequate clothing, other things that need to be done in a home.

Also, we have a lot of young children that are on ADC, young mothers, that do not really understand what it's all about being a mother and being a parent and also looking for the day care. A lot of the burden is put back on the mother after their daughter has had a daughter and it makes it even difficult for that mother to even go out to work.

We need more day care to say OK, we can help you with your child care. We need programs that will, once the woman or mother goes back into the work force, say OK, here is something, because you are trying to help yourself, here is something that is an extra incentive to keep going.

But right now there's no extra incentive. And it's easy for a mother to give up and say I can't do it because I have too many children.

The neighborhood I live in, there are families with five and six children. And they do have difficulty—I've talked to these ladies and they have said, "It's easier for me to sit home. I don't want to be here."

But the day cares are not equipped to handle a lot of the children that are in our neighborhood. We only have like two day care centers within our area. And the area is large. And they tell us no, we have to turn down people because we have no more space.

And we do need this. We need more places that have the qualifications and we do need more people to staff and say OK, we are here to help.

Senator REID. Thank you.

Do any of the other panelists have any experiences about the difficulty in obtaining child care?

Yes; please hand her the microphone.

What is your name?

STATEMENT OF RUTHIE BRADFORD

Ms. BRADFORD. I'm Ruthie Bradford. And I've been here in Nevada for 35 years.

I've had experience with my grandchildren and now I'm back to great grandchildren. I'm right around 70 years of age.

And I want to say here is a big problem. On this last Wednesday I was with my granddaughter, which I helped raise her, finding a nursery for her little 2-year-old daughter. It's very difficult. The job that she has, it isn't the idea that she don't want to, but she cannot afford to pay the nursery bill which they are asking for. We went to several of them. And then to keep a house and feed she and her little daughter.

And this has kept me for the last 30 years here in Nevada, helping out with my grandchildren. Mine was not raised on welfare. And when I came along without education it wasn't easy. No welfare and no Social Security. But somehow or another the Lord kept me going to try to provide for my family.

Senator REID. Ruthie, what would have happened had your daughter not had you?

Ms. BRADFORD. That's exactly what I'm saying. I'm on a very small income myself. I live in low rent house and I only get $236 until this last month, they gave me $3 raise of Social Security. And this is what I have to survive by.

When I came along—there's not too many now that will go on a budget. I have been on a budget so long in my life, it has become a part of me.

This is what has kept me going, knowing that God has kept me from day to day helping out with my grandchildren, and now it's great grandchildren.

And I feel like it's really a need now for the nurseries for the children.

I went to one—this little granddaughter, she's very intelligent, 2 years of age, they thought she was 4. And it's not common among our people, I want to say it. But seeing how this little girl taken to this nursery, the proprietor of the nursery asked my granddaughter, "Let her stay for an hour." And I'll tell you, she thought that was the greatest thing that happened in her life. She just flipped out.

Senator **REID**. Thank you very much, Ruthie.

Ms. **BRADFORD**. Some of them is really going to go far. And staying in one place sometimes your body gets tired.

Senator **REID**. Thank you very much.

Ladies, I thank you very much for your testimony. You're excused now. Thank you.

STATEMENTS OF:

ROBERT MILLER, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, STATE OF NEVADA
JOHN S. McGROARTY, JUVENILE COURT JUDGE, CLARK COUNTY
JOANNE WALLER, DIRECTOR, LATCHKEY PLUS PROGRAM
PATRICIA DUNCOMBE, NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS
STEPHEN J. MEAD, SENIOR RECREATION SPECIALIST, LAS VEGAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACTIVITIES

Senator **REID**. The next panel of witnesses will be those with experience in law enforcement and related activities.

The first panelist will be the Honorable Robert Miller, the lieutenant governor of the State of Nevada, former district attorney of Clark County.

Appearing with Lieutenant Governor Miller will be Judge John McGroarty, juvenile court judge for Clark County; Patricia Duncombe, representing the Nevada Association of Social Workers; Joanne Waller and Steve Mead, representing the cities of Reno and Las Vegas and the latchkey children programs.

I've been informed that he still is not here at this time. So, Lieutenant Governor Miller, you will be the first witness.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT MILLER

Mr. **MILLER**. "Government's responsibility to its young citizens doesn't magically begin at the age of 6." I think that that quote sums up the point of today's hearings.

There's just no question that the first 5 or 6 years of a child's life are critically important in determining the personality and behavioral traits that they will exhibit during their adult lifetime.

During this early stage it's absolutely necessary for us to nurture and protect our children in the best way that we can.

I'm testifying here today because I believe that to accomplish this we must make licensed child care facilities available and affordable to each and every family that deserves them. That's a considerable goal and one that will require a strong commitment on behalf of Federal, State, and local governments in partnership with the private sector.

And a good example of the latter, Senator Reid, I'm sure you are aware, is in Reno, NV, where they actually established a child care facility as part of their corporate growth in one area near the airport. I'll be meeting with them next week.

I'm convinced that working together with all those entities, that we can and must bring these goals to reality.

The issue of child care is, plain and simply, not just a woman's issue. The 1980's have brought about a society in which two-income families and working single parents are, out of necessity, the rule, and not the exception.

The availability and affordability of day care centers is an issue that man and woman alike must be concerned about.

Unfortunately, women are more closely involved in the day care issue, because statistics tell us they clearly comprise the majority of single-parent households.

Inadequate child care services only add to the difficulties that women of today's workplace are often confronted with. Many times this results in women being forced to make a choice between having a career or having children. This should never be the case.

On the State level I feel our responsibility goes beyond availability and affordability and into the areas of protection and enrichment.

To nurture our children we have to give them individualized attention and stimulate their minds with educational and emotional enrichment. This means making child care centers more than mere custodial playrooms.

To protect them we must have the safest environment possible in which our children are not threatened or exposed to the predators in our society that would prey upon them.

I have been working my entire adult life in improving child protection. We've had many successes, including the last session of the legislature passing a bill that allows for background checks into the criminal history of anyone who works with children in our State.

I applaud you for calling this hearing to draw attention and comment on this important issue. I pledge my support on the State level to work with you in improving the child care of children in Nevada.

I would like to conclude with a quote from an American education administrator named Susan Castro. "All children are musicians. All children are artists. Everything they do at this age, preschool, is new. Play is work for them that constantly extends their limits. It is a most vital creative function. If we can make it rich the best that is human will flourish within the child."

Senator REID. Thank you very much, Governor.

The next witness is Judge McGroarty.

If you'd remain seated, we'll have some questions.

STATEMENT OF JOHN McGROARTY

Mr. McGROARTY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I'd like to follow up on what Lashona said. You'll recall that Lashona testified that when she came home from school she was confronted in her neighborhood by kids who did what? Drugs, breaking into homes, larcenies.

Let me suggest to you that is a very real problem. And I submitted to the committee a copy of an Associated Press article which appeared in the paper 3 days ago, entitled, "Latchkey children take refuge in library stacks."

The article refers to these number of children throughout the country that are being placed in libraries by their parents as a substitute day care program. But in fact, there is nothing available for them. That's the point of that article. But there is one important thing in that article. It indicates the latest U.S. Census Bureau of Statistics indicate over 2,250,000 children aged 5 to 13 had no adult at home in 1984. That's after they got out of school.

You take that statistic and you ask what are the consequences of the lack of child care or adequate child care?

There are two aspects of this problem. As Lashona pointed out, you have the criminal side of it. And I see it all the time in my court since I've been assigned to juvenile division for the last 5 years.

I wrote an article which appeared in a publication called the Sage a couple years ago, and I'd like to quote to you from that article, which I submitted to the committee, to give you a feel what it's like for these children who are left out on the streets with no adult supervision because there's no adequate child care.

Quote. "The kind of people."

The kind of people who will take care of your children if you don't take care of them, or if we don't as a society, are, for example, burglars, rings of teenagers to break into residences after school; drug pushers, who use your children to get others to begin to experiment with drugs then to sell drugs at great profit to the pushers but with tragic consequences to the children; car thieves, who use juveniles to steal your cars which are then stripped and left in the desert or transported out of State. Finally, pimps who seek out young females and males and try to lure them into the lives of prostitution by manipulation, by drugs, and other manipulations.

That's the seamy side of lack of child care. The other side of the coin, the abused, abandoned, and neglect side.

Mr. John Dantis, who will testify later, estimates that last year we had anywhere from 1,200 to 1,300 children who were placed into custody of Nevada State welfare. Why? Because their parents were destitute. They come to our court, drop the children off and say I can't provide for my children. I love my children, please take them, help them, clothe them, raise them.

And what happens? The parents disappear.

And we have to take care of them.

The reasons? The reasons are economic, and we referred as authority to the book authored by Lenore Weisman, entitled "Divorce Revolution."

After a divorce the economic status of a woman goes down 73 percent, the economic status of the man—it is generally the man, although there are exceptions, goes up 42 percent. Therefore, it becomes a question of economics.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I would suggest to you that this ABC bill that you have sponsored is an extremely important measure. And I, of course, as juvenile court judge for the last 5 years, support it completely.

Thank you.

Senator REID. Thank you very much, Judge.

The next witness will be Joanne Waller.

Would you please state your name, for the record and your occupation?

STATEMENT OF JOANNE WALLER

Ms. WALLER. Thank you. I'm Joanne Waller, recreation superintendent for the city of Reno and also director of our new Latchkey Plus Program. And on behalf of the city of Reno, I'd like to thank you for inviting us to participate in this very important hearing and let you know in January 1988 the city of Reno Recreation Division, with the cooperation of Washoe County School District launched Latchkey Plus Program at two elementary school sites to assist kindergarten age through sixth grade who have no one to care for them after school.

The latchkey plus accommodates the needs of those children with a safe, supervised environment, provide snacks, homework assistance, arts and crafts, and an activity or game period from 3 to 5:45 p.m. on schooldays. The most important thing is this program does not require transportation.

The fees that we do collect to operate the program pay for the basic necessities, supplies and services, salaries and all that.

However, we have only scratched the surface of low-income child care. And the city of Reno is applying for Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program funds to operate a latchkey program in the low-income area in Reno. And funding has been requested to initiate this third site in September 1988. The fees will be charged on a sliding fee scale according to the parents' income.

There are, however, a total of eight elementary schools that serve areas with 51 percent or more low-income residents. It is assumed there are families in all of these schools that would need some amount of subsidy for after-school child care program. And we are only talking one, unfortunately.

The latchkey program is constantly increasing due to the number of women entering the work force, an average of 500,000 a year. However the city of Reno's Latchkey Plus Program is a very small representation of what is needed. The issue of quality, affordable child care is more than one public entity can answer. So Government support and funding is essential to continue. The city of Reno would like to go on record as supporting the Act for Better Child Care Services.

Senator REID. Thank you very much.

The next witness in this panel is Steve Mead.

State your name, profession or occupation, please.

STATEMENT OF STEPHEN MEAD

Mr. MEAD. Steve Mead, senior recreation specialist for the city of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Recreation and Senior Citizens Activities.

The city of Las Vegas under its leadership of Mayor Lurie, Councilmen Nolen, Bunker, Miller, Adamsen, and city manager Ashley Hall, has really developed a very progressive and dynamic department of parks and recreation and senior citizens activities under the direction of Chris Stanfill. One of the many undertakings as a department is the community school system currently operating out of four locations out of the city. The Charleston Heights, Garside, Baker Park, Robison, and the Brinley Community Schools. These community schools act as delivery centers for the community services that we can provide the citizens.

The city has recognized the existence of the growing population which is the latchkey child. Our Baker Park Community School responded to the challenge by developing a Safekey Program. This program is a cooperative effort between the city of Las Vegas, the city's community school system, and the Clark County School District. The Safekey Program is designed to assist working parents with their elementary schoolchildren from 3 in the afternoon to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. Safekey provides a safe alternative for the latchkey child.

Baker Park Community School has provided information on this program both locally and nationally from North Las Vegas to Reno, to Columbus, OH.

The Safekey Program was featured in the 1985 National Community Education Association Annual Convention.

How is the program funded? A normal 180-day school year, the cost per site has been $16,000. Twelve parents paying $20 a week for this service creates $8,000. The city of Las Vegas contributes administrative and supervisory staff, approximately $4,000, and the school district providing the facility is worth about $4,000. So a total of $16,000.

The city's community school system is currently operating safekey programs is approximately one-third of the elementary and sixth grade centers in the city limits. This is only, however, 15 percent of the total sites in the Clark County School District.

The city will need to expand its staffing levels to supervise all of its sites while other governmental entities in southern Nevada will also need to expand their resources to implement similar programs.

Because the Safekey Program runs at such a break-even basis, that is, your fee services versus the direct costs, we were forced to close three sites in the low- to moderate-income areas because of low enrollment. One of these sites has reopened with a private contribution from Nevada Savings. This program, however, will only run to the end of this school year.

Since statistics or facts from Harrold L. Hodgkinson, Education Research Services, 1986 and 1987, school enrollment nationwide will increase for ages 5 to 9 until approximately 1995. School enrollment nationwide will increase for ages 10 to 13 until about 2005.

Some facts about the class of 2000. About 24 percent will be below the poverty line, 50 percent single parents, 66 percent from mothers employed outside the home, and at least 30 percent latchkey children.

Locally with school district projections and these national statistics, we have estimated at least 2,000 to 3,500 of our Las Vegas children will be latchkey children in the year 2000 or sooner.

Some of the concerns that we have had are that the community has a need to expand this service certainly beyond the city limits of Las Vegas.

Presently a steering committee is being formed to create action on this particular program.

Thank you.

PREPARED STATEMENTS

Senator Reid. We'll make your full statements part of the record.

[The statements follow:]

STATEMENT OF JOHN S. McGROARTY

The Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families held a hearing to assess the changing nature of the economy and the growing necessity for families to participate in the workforce. The hearing explored the importance of child care to families' ability to become and remain self-sufficient, and to improve employee productivity in the workplace.

The first panel began with testimony from Annie Bridgers, a single mother of three young children, Washington, DC, who said that without child care, she would not have been able to participate in the District of Columbia's Jobs Opportunity and Business Training program, which led to her employment as a receptionist. She indicated as well that she would be unable to retain her job without child care assistance, available on a sliding fee scale basis. Without her child care subsidy, she would be forced to rely on public assistance again. The full fee for child care for just one of her children would be nearly one third of her take-home pay.

Terri Maniker, a single mother of one child, aged 7, of Bethesda, MD, told Members that divorce plunged her and her infant daughter into poverty. She recounted that subsidized child care enabled her to earn an undergraduate degree and to avoid reliance on public assistance, but during law school she had to work three jobs because publicly-supported child care was not available. Since most child care programs do not have extended hours, according to Maniker, she will not be able to accept a job in a law firm which requires long hours. She concluded that for the "many women who combine work and family, without day care centers, millions would be called 'welfare mothers,' [instead of] 'superwomen'."

Tom Glynn, Deputy Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Welfare testified that without its child care component, the Massachusetts' Employment and Training Program (ET) would not work. Women with children, especially young children, cannot participate in training or work without adequate child care. Glynn explained why the ET child care budget--nearly half of the total--is so high: 1) the program serves recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, 60% of whom have at least one child under 6; 2) ET pays for up to one year of transitional child care after employment; 3) child care is expensive--in Massachusetts, the average cost is more than $3,000 per child per year. However, Glynn reported that this investment has paid off. Since ET began, the AFDC caseload has declined 4.4%, the number of families who have been on AFDC for 5 years or more has declined 25%, saving $122 million in 1986 alone.

Ronnie Sanders, Director, Voucher Day Care, Massachusetts Department of Social Services, described in more detail the child care component of the ET/Choices program. In 1987, Massachusetts will spend about $74 million on contracted child care for approximately 17,000 children from low-income working families or in protective services. About $27 million will be used to provide child care through a voucher system for about 8,000 children whose parents participate in or complete the ET program.

According to Sanders, transitional child care assistance, available for up to 1 year after starting a job, is critical to a client's ability to remain self-sufficient. Without a child care subsidy, more than 1/3 of participants' income would go to child care, substantially diminishing the value of earned income.

When child care assistance is available, women with very young children are able to participate. In 1984, at the start of the ET program, only 18% of all ET participants had children under six. In 1987, because of an expansion in child care funds, that percent rose to 41%. Although the number of licensed child care providers doubled as the voucher program expanded, with much of the growth among family day care providers who became licensed in order to participate, Sanders pointed out that infant/toddler care remains in short supply.

The Committee then heard from Sue Miles, Coordinator, Early Childhood Education Program, Waubonsee College, Sugar Grove, IL. The campus child care center run by Miles serves children 16 months to 5 years whose mothers attend the two year college. It is funded through Title XX and the United Way, and operates on a sliding fee scale. Miles stressed that child care permits parents to complete a needed education and to work, promoting family self-sufficiency. According to Miles, such care improves childrens' school achievement, reduces delinquency and the need for special education, and increases work productivity in adulthood.

The Honorable Sunne McPeak, Chair, County Board of Supervisors, Contra Costa County, CA, cited changes in the economy, workforce, population of young children, and composition of families as factors responsible for the growing child care demand in Contra Costa County, which she described as a microcosm of California. In California, there are only 600,000 licensed spaces for the 1.6 million children under 15 who need care; in the County, according to McPeak, more than 25,000 children are underserved by the existing child care delivery system, and the greatest demand is for infant and school-aged child care.

McPeak described the county's role in meeting the child care need, including its responsibility for implementing the child care component of GAIN, California's welfare reform program. McPeak stressed, however, that state resources to implement GAIN are insufficient. Unless the county helps develop new child care resources, it will be impossible to serve all potential GAIN participants.

Calling for aggressive action to bolster the development of public-private partnerships, McPeak recommended that Congress support (1) seed money for community-based, public-private partnerships for child care; (2) tax credits for employers and developers to contribute to child care; and (3) tax credits for parents on a sliding fee scale basis so that lower income, working parents are the primary beneficiaries of this policy.

Richard Vicars, Vice President of Human Resources, Lincoln National Life Insurance Corporation, Ft. Wayne, IN, attested to the need to accommodate the increasing number of employees who are single parents or dual wage earners, as well as children's need for a healthy environment in which to develop. To address these needs, his company designed an exemplary benefits package which includes an in-house child care information and referral service, flexible work scheduling, a tax exempt salary reduction plan for dependent care, and a contract with a local hospital for sick child care. According to Vicars, high quality child care benefits employers as well as children and their families.

Philip K. Robins, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, University of Miami, FL, reviewed the results of his research on the role of child care in promoting economic self-sufficiency among low-income families residing in public housing. Based on an extensive survey, he found that an increase in the availability of child care within a public housing site causes a corresponding increase in positive work outcomes for residents. For example, a 50% increase in the size of an onsite child care center would result in a 19.5% increase in residents' earnings, a 13.5% increase in hours worked, and a 4% decline in average welfare benefits. Based on resident parents' indication of need, however, Robins found that there was a waiting list of 96,000 children nationwide in need of child care in public housing.

Another study of his found that the higher the cost of child care, the less able mothers are to enter the workforce. According to Robins, these findings suggest that government efforts to subsidize child care costs or to increase availability would lead to a significant increase in the economic well-being of families.

Harry L. Freeman, Executive Vice President, American Express Company, submitted testimony on the role of the corporation in child care. Freeman emphasized that child care is closely linked to worker productivity and company profitability. Problems with child care arrangements cost employers an average of 8 worker days every year for each employee with a child under age 13.

Since 1984, American Express has provided a child care referral program for its 12,000 New York City employees, and is expected to expand these services to 33,000 employees at all major U.S. locations, and to assist in the development of family day care networks for the benefit of communities across the country. American Express also offers a tax-exempt dependent care account, and an employee assistance program that includes seminars and counseling on work and family issues.

Recognizing that the need for child care has reached crisis proportions, Freeman pointed out that corporations have an obligation to their communities to ensure quality, licensed child care. In addition, he stressed that the private sector must operate in partnership with the public sector to improve the quality and supply of child care. He urged federal and state leadership in this endeavor.

FACT SHEET
HEARING: "Child Care: Key to Employment in a Changing Economy"

LACK OF CHILD CARE IS BARRIER TO EMPLOYMENT

- 36% of mothers in families with incomes less than $15,000/year said they would look for work if child care were available at a reasonable cost. Single mothers were twice as likely to respond in this manner (45%) than married mothers (22%). (Census, 1983)

- One-third of nonworking mothers with preschool children who dropped out of high school said that they would look for work if they had reasonably priced child care. (O'Connell and Bloom, 1987)

- In a survey of 1,200 California parents, 1/4 of all homemakers and unemployed parents, including 1/2 of all single parents, reported that inadequate child care arrangements kept them from working or attending training programs. (California Governor's Task Force on Child Care, 1986)

- Of 130,000 Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania families, 1 out of 5 reported lack of child care as a major deterrent to employment. (Fernandez, 1986)

- Nearly 2/3 of the single mothers receiving AFDC benefits surveyed in Washington State cited difficulty with child care responsibilities as a primary problem in seeking and keeping jobs. More than 3/4 of the women who had stopped looking for work cited child care difficulties as preventing their search for, or attainment of, employment. (National Social Science and Law Center, 1986)

CHILD CARE BENEFITS IN THE WORKPLACE: LIMITED, BUT GROWING

- Of 8,121 employees in Portland, Oregon, 47% of female employees and 28% of male employees with children under age 12 reported stress due to their child care arrangements. (Galinsky and Friedman, Investing in Quality Child Care: A Report for AT&T, [AT&T], 1986)

- Of 5,000 workers at five corporations in the Midwest, 58% of the female workers and 33% of the male workers with young children felt that their child care concerns affected their time at work in unproductive ways. (AT&T, 1986)

- In 1985, only 1% of employees in medium and large firms were eligible for even partial defrayment of costs associated with day care for their children. (O'Connell and Bloom, 1987)

- Between 1970 and 1986, the number of employers providing child care services for children of their employees rose from under 50 to about 2000. But they represent few of the nation's 6 million employers or the 44,000 companies with 100 or more employees. (O'Connell and Bloom, 1987)

- In a representative study of 600 adults in U.S. households with incomes of at least $25,000, 80% said they want employers to offer child care referral services; 70% want employer-provided on-site child care, and 58% would like subsidized child care. Among the 21% of households with a child under age 6, 45% would consider changing jobs or returning to work if they knew of a company that provided flexible work hours. On-site child care and subsidized child care would encourage 39% and 34% respectively to change jobs or return to work. (LAR/Decision Research, 1987)

CHILD CARE PROVIDES WAY OUT OF POVERTY FOR LOW INCOME PARENTS

- Almost 1/2 of the participants in a voucher day care program in Massachusetts were able to terminate AFDC. Employment levels rose with the length of participation, from 63% at baseline to 93% for those using the child care vouchers for 12 months or more. Among individuals looking for work, 70% found employment. (Grey et al., 1984)

- Child care offered on a sliding fee scale basis in Florida resulted in a 50% reduction in welfare recipiency, a 123% improvement in employment, and a 117% increase in family income. Once AFDC recipients left welfare, they remained self-sufficient. (Hosni and Donnan, 1979).

- Family income and taxes paid increased 6-1/2 times among California families who used a child care program for two years. Total public funding was offset by 45% and 68% of AFDC families no longer required income assistance. (Freis and Miller, 1981)

- Child care provided on-site at a St. Paul high school has been a major factor in allowing 80% of teen mothers to complete high school. Programs in selected Mississippi schools which offer child care also show a 90% high school graduation rate among teen mothers. (Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families [CYF], 1984)

LACK OF CHILD CARE PERSISTS DESPITE GROWING NEED

- In FY 1986, states' overall Title XX Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) expenditures for child care were approximately 12% lower -- in constant dollars -- than in 1981. In FY 1986, 23 states were providing fewer children with child care assistance through the Title XX SSBG than they did in 1981. Only 15 states were serving more children. Between FY 1985 and FY 1986, 11 states again reduced the number of children served in their Title XX funded child care programs -- almost twice the number of states that reduced children served between FY 1984 and FY 1985. (Children's Defense Fund, State Child Care Fact Book, 1986)

- While low income, female-headed households account for 80-90% of the families receiving child care subsidies through some combination of federal, state, and local funds, many states are serving less than 30% of their eligible population. (Marx, 1/87)

- Only 7% of the estimated 1.1 million California children are eligible for subsidized child care. California provides state funds for 63,000 children ages 0-14 in child care programs, and for 20,000 children in State preschool programs. (California Assembly Office of Research, 1986)

- In New York, between 830,000 and 1.2 million preschool and school-age children need child care, in contrast to the fewer than 135,000 licensed child care placements that are available statewide. (New York Commission on Child Care, 1987)

- In one representative area of Houston served by the Urban Affairs Corporation, 92 infants are enrolled in day care to allow their teenage mothers to complete school or work; 90 additional infants are on a waiting list. (Bryant, 1987)

- In more than 230 public housing projects with child care centers recently surveyed, there was a waiting list of approximately 96,000 children. (Robins, 1987)

MORE WOMEN IN WORKFORCE

- Since the mid-1960's, the number of women in the workforce has more than doubled. Currently, 54.5% of women are active in the workforce. More than 62% of all new jobs created since the mid-1970's went to women, and more than 60% of all working women are employed in clerical, sales, and service sector occupations. (Sacks, 1986).

- Women will account for the majority of the labor force growth from 1984 to 1995. In 1970, 50% of women between age 25 and 44 were in the workforce; by 1995, it is estimated that more than 80% of these women will be working. (Department of Labor, 1986)

- Currently, 70% of all women in the workforce are of childbearing age; 80% of them are expected to become pregnant sometime during their work careers. (AT&T, 1986)

MORE MOTHERS IN LABOR FORCE

- Half of all married mothers with infants under age one are in the workforce -- a 108% increase since 1970. (Bureau of Labor Statistics [BLS], 1986)

- In 1986, 60% of mothers whose youngest child was 3-5 years old were employed -- up from 45% a decade earlier. (BLS, 1986)

- The 1990's will be the first decade to begin with a majority (55%) of married mothers of children under age six in the labor force, an 80% increase since 1970. (CYF, 1984)

- In 1985, 67.8% of single parent mothers worked, up from 59.7% in 1973. (Joint Economic Committee [JEC], 1986)

- By 1995, 2/3 of all preschool children (14.6 million) will have mothers in the workforce. Four out of five children between the ages of 7 and 18 are expected to have working mothers. (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development [NICHD], 1986; Marx, 1987)

MORE MOTHERS WORKING FULL-TIME

- Of all mothers who worked in 1985, approximately 70% worked full-time. In 1985, 84% of black working mothers, 69% of white working mothers, and 79% of Hispanic working mothers worked full-time. (BLS, 1985; Hayghe, 1986)

- More than 2/3 of all employed mothers with preschool children work full-time. (BLS, 1986)

- Thirty-five percent of women working part-time or looking for work would work additional hours if they could find affordable day care. (National Association of Working Women, 1986)

WOMEN MAKE CRITICAL CONTRIBUTION TO FAMILY INCOME

- In two-parent households, real income declined 3.1% between 1973 and 1984, but would have declined by 10% were it not for the increased number of working mothers. (JEC, 1986)

- In a 1983 New York Times survey, more than 71% of working mothers with children said they work to support their families. (JEC, 1986)

- One fourth of working women earn more than their husbands. In addition, 25% of working women are married to men who earn less than $10,000/year; 50% are married to men who earn less than $20,000/year and 80% of working women are married to men who earn less than $30,000/year. (AT&T, 1986)

- **Between 1967 and 1985, wives' contributions to family income increased from 10.6% to 18.0% for white families with children, from 19.4% to 30.4% for black families with children and from 14.4% to 20.0% for Hispanic families with children. On the average, in 1985, the earnings of two-parent families were 24.4% higher than they would have been had wives not worked and had all other income sources remained at their 1985 levels. (JEC, 1986)**

ARTICLE "THE SAGE"

Last month I was asked to serve on a panel speaking to a group of parents on the question of "Who is in Charge?" I would like to share with you some of the comments which I made that evening.

Of course, parents should be in charge. But are they? Based upon my last three years of experience being assigned to Juvenile Court, I can assure you that if parents are not in charge then there are plenty of people from the criminal element in Las Vegas who are more than willing to take over and take charge of your children:

-- burglars who recruit rings of teenagers to break into residences after school and before the teenagers have to be home.

-- drug pushers who use your children to get others to begin to experiment with drugs and then to sell the drugs, at great profit to the pushers but with tragic consequences to the users.

-- car thieves who use juveniles to steal your cars which are then stripped and left in the desert or transported out of state.

-- pimps who seek out young females and males, and then try to lure them into lives of prostitution through manipulation by drugs and other inducements.

A common theme running throughout a majority of serious juvenile crimes is the presence of drugs. Children steal cars, burglarize homes, sell drugs or even their own bodies in exchange for drugs or for the money with which to buy drugs. By drugs, I am referring to everything from marijuana to cocaine and especially, alcohol. And I am also referring to every strata of society: neither money nor social prominence insulates adolescents from drugs.

We have all heard the story about the parents who are thankful their child only abuses alcohol, not the "harder" drugs. These parents are dead wrong. Abuse of alcohol causes irresponsible behavior which, in turn, often results in criminal behavior. But then the parents may protest that many of their children's friends drink alcohol or are permitted to have an occasional beer or two and that their children would not be "popular" with their own friends if they did not also share a beer or two. Who is in charge here? The parents, the child, the child's friends?

I would suggest that parents can and should be in charge. Juvenile Court cannot and should not assume the parenting role. As one psychologist states:

> Adolescents' values and social roles are predominantly shaped by the communities where they live and the adults in their lives. Peers are important, but when push comes to shove, apparently, it's the adult role models that matter most.

Children learn by example. Parents provide that example. Pimps, burglars and pushers also set examples. Which example will your child follow? Who is in charge of your child?

STATEMENT OF KIM DIAMOND

I am a young, single-parent of three children. I have listed below some of the problems I have faced both as a married working woman and a single-parent.

1. My child care calls me to take time off from work to pick up my children for minor reasons like misbehaving or a headache.
2. Even if I take a week's vacation, I still have to pay half price although the kids are not there.
3. I've had even more problems with private licensed homes such as seeing more children in the home than I know is allowed.
4. My son has eaten paint in a so called "licensed home". I had to call poison control to make sure he wasn't poisoned.
5. When my son was fifteen months old, he was left unattended in the back yard with other children and was hit in the head with a swing which resulted in a mild concussion.
6. When my kids were infants, there were a couple of times when they were sent home without a diaper on (under their clothes) even though there were still diapers in their bag.
7. My kids were put in a crib or playpen as punishment and told they were in jail.
8. Another form of punishment was refusing drinks of water when they were thirsty.
9. My oldest son was made to walk to school in kindergarten even though I made arrangements with the sitter to take him.
10. The sitter would send different people I didn't know, and my son didn't know, to pick him up from school.

11. My son was always late for school and always late being picked up. I thought my arrangements for transportation were thorough. I didn't even know this was a problem until his teacher finally called a meeting with me.

There were many more things that I have had happened. These are the highlights of my experiences with child care and the difficulties I have had in finding adequate facilities to take care of my children while I work.

[ARTICLE FROM REVIEW JOURNAL, FEB. 11, 1988]

LATCHKEY CHILDREN TAKE REFUGE IN LIBRARY STACKS

By Lee Mitgang
Associated Press

At first glance, it's a librarian's dream: hordes of energetic children streaming into public libraries after school each day, a golden opportunity to foster young readers.

But it's more like a nightmare to some librarians.

Thousands of children, some as young as 2 or 3, are being left unattended at public libraries across the country by working parents who either can't afford or can't find adequate day care.

The problem, say librarians, is public libraries are understaffed and not always the safe havens many parents believe them to be.

At the main branch of the Brooklyn Public Library in New York, for example, where 100 or more unattended children gather each day, street gangs sometimes snatch jewelry. Last December, there were four arrests for crack in the children's room despite the presence of security guards, according to librarians.

Chicago librarian Helen Goodman now compares afternoons amid the once-serene stacks to "scenes of the stock exchange that they show on television."

Worsening the impact of these legions of "library latchkey children" is their coming at a time when children's librarians are in increasingly short supply. Colleges conferred 3,538 library degrees in 1986, fewer than half the 8,091 degrees in 1979, according to the American Library Association.

There is nothing new, of course, in children coming to libraries after school. The problem is children who come for hours every day, without fail, with nothing to do, with no adult responsible for them, with energy to burn and in no mood to follow library rules.

No one knows how many thousands of children take refuge at libraries, but the latest U.S. Census Bureau statistics indicate 2,258,000 children aged 5 to 13 had no adult at home after school in 1984.

The situation is posing awkward choices for librarians and library organizations: Many librarians instinctively rebel against rules that even hint at restricting children's access to libraries, and some are critical of fellow librarians who speak of latchkey children as a "[illegible]

"We should do absolutely nothing to discourage library use by children," said Marguerite Dodson, a librarian since 1952 and now head of children's services of the

60-branch Brooklyn Public Library.

"Maybe we have large numbers of people in the library profession who shouldn't be there, whose interest is research and not serving the public," she said.

Nonetheless, the latchkey problem has gotten serious enough that the library association has drafted a position paper on latchkey children and some cities are taking action.

In Atlanta, signs in libraries warn parents about criminal charges of child abandonment.

Signs in Boston libraries insist that children be accompanied by an adult. But Mary Margaret Pitts, a main branch librarian, said some young patrons read the notices then ask with trepidation if they can enter the children's room.

"We want children to feel that they are wanted in the library, but we want to get the message across to adults that this is not a facility that can watch children like a day-care center," said Jeri Baker, assistant manager of the Children's Center at the Central Library in Dallas, where a task force has proposed banning unattended children under 7.

The latchkey phenomenon isn't limited to cities or the poor, said Mary Somerville, head of children's library services in Louisville, and president of the ALA Association for Library Services to Children.

She said her cousins from a suburb of Birmingham, Ala., "tell me with great pride that they drop their 11-year-old at the public library each day."

In Long Beach, N.Y., a Long Island suburb with no organized day care, public library officials announced a policy aimed at unattended youngsters younger than 7. Librarians make every effort to find a parent or other responsible adult. Failing that, the police are called.

"We've had circumstances where 2 and 3-year-olds were left unattended," said Marianne Pilla, children's librarian in Long Beach.

A draft copy of the 46-page ALA paper, "Latchkey Children in the Public Library," urges libraries not to blame children for circumstances not of their own making.

A 1985 study of about 200 libraries in Los Angeles County found "about 2,000 children a day whose parents were using the library as an afterschool child-care center," said Penny Markey, children's service head for the county system.

"It is a problem in Los Angeles and Southern California," said Markey. "It's become more severe with the increase in cost and inaccessibility of adequate child care."

Safety is an urgent issue. Librarians say many parents don't understand that public libraries are not immune to the dangers youngsters might encounter at shopping malls or other hangouts. And they are particularly upset about parents who fail to pick up children at closing time.

"Parents don't realize. We have people who are sinister. We've had lots of frightening incidents — people coming in to stare at children," said Pitts at the Boston Public Library.

When Boston librarians overhear a parent tell a child to stay there and wait, "we dash up to the parent and say you leave your child at your own risk. Parents look very surprised," said Pitts.

Some librarians, however, have turned the latchkey influx to good advantage. The Huntington Park

Public Library southeast of Los Angeles, where 150 to 200 children come after school, began a volunteer program using children to help return books to the shelves and set up displays.

"I've really seen a lot of kids become readers. Circulation has really gone up," said librarian Ruth Morse. "A lot of kids get hooked on reading because they're around the library so much."

Whole families of latchkey children sometimes spend days in the library.

At the Brooklyn library, librarian Pam Gunter said 7-year-old Bevaun, 9-year-old Vanessa and 11-year-old Patrick have been coming in almost every day after school for at least two years, staying until 5 or 6 in the evening.

"Bevaun sits at the reference desk with us and reads some books. We've seen some improvement in her reading abilities. Patrick was terribly shy, but he's starting to smile," she said.

Libraries commonly use story hours and arts and crafts activities to keep latchkey children occupied.

The ALA paper cited some other creative approaches. Libraries in Orange County, N.C., and Greenville, S.C., run afterschool survival skills classes for latchkey children.

STATEMENT OF JOANNE WALLER

On behalf of the City of Reno I would like to thank Senator Reid for the invitation to participate in the field hearing on child care in Nevada.

January 1988, the City of Reno Recreation Division, with the cooperation of the Washoe County School District, launched a **Latch-Key Plus Program** at two elementary school sites to assist children, kindergarten through sixth grade who have no one to care for them after school. **Latch Key Plus** accommodates the needs of these children with a safe, supervised environment, snacks, homework assistance, arts and crafts, and an activity or game period from 3 to 5:45 p.m. on all school days and does not require transportation. The program is staffed by certified teachers and aides; and the fees collected support the program for all equipment, supplies, snacks, and salaries.

However, we have only scratched the surface of need for after-school care for low-income families.

The Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program will be a major factor in allowing the Recreation Division to expand its current Latch Key Plus Program to accommodate low to moderate income families. Funding has been requested to initiate a third program site beginning September, 1988, where fees will be charged on a sliding fee scale according to income. There are however, a total of eight elementary schools in Reno that serve areas with fifty-one percent or more low-income residents. It is assumed that there are families in all of these schools that would need some amount of subsidy for an after-school care program.

We realize the latch-key problem is constantly increasing due to the number of women entering the work force (an average of over a half-million a year). However, the City of Reno's **Latch Key Plus Program** is a very small representation of what is needed. The issue of quality, affordable child care is more than one public entity can answer. Government support and funding is essential to initiate and continue affordable day care.

STATEMENT OF PATRICIA DUNCOMBE

The Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers wishes to commend Senator Harry Reid for his co-sponsorship of Senate Bill 1885, the "Act for Better Child Care Services of 1987". Our Association is a member of the Alliance for Better Child Care, which developed this model legislation, and strongly supports its passage as soon as possible. As the first serious, comprehensive attempt to address the problem of providing adequate, quality childcare in our country since President Nixon vetoed the Childcare Development Bill that had broad bi-partisan support and passed both houses in Congress in

1971, this Act comes at a time when the need for federal intervention in the provision of quality daycare is widely supported.

It is no accident that the Women's Movement identified Childcare as one of the most critical issues in improving the status of women. In a study sponsored by the Wyoming Commission for Women in 1978, entitled: "Barriers to Employment for Women in Wyoming", the question was asked in the survey, "Has the lack of adequate childcare prevented you from taking paid employment away from home?" Almost half of the respondents who required childcare services were having or had had difficulties in employment due to lack of availability of childcare services.

In the May-June 1987 issue of "Children Today", it is reported that "the most dramatic increase in labor force activity by mothers of young children between 1976 and 1985 has been among those women who can earn salaries high enough to absorb the costs of childcare. These include college educated women, white women and those over 30. Black women, high school dropouts and young unwed mothers have made only modest gains in labor force participation in the past decade". The result has been the growth of the phenomenon called "The Feminization of Poverty". With quality childcare either unavailable or so expensive as not to be affordable for the most needy, seeking employment to improve their situation becomes an impossibility for them.

Recent training programs provide for childcare while training is taking place. However, when the parent completes this and moves into a job, suddenly all the support services are removed. The result can be catastrophic as the parent is swamped with new costs. We would like to recommend the gradual phasing out of the provision for childcare, as is now being done for medical assistance, so that the client can cope with the new responsibilities.

However, it is not only the very poor and unskilled who are in need of good childcare. We are pleased to see that this Act addresses some of the fundamental issues in childcare: standards, staffing, cost, and support services.

In Nevada, we have a serious problem of having a lack of uniformity in standards set by several licensing agencies. Confusion arises because of the discrepancies between the standards they set. The Act appears to encourage the development of consistent standards throughout the State.

We also support the requirement that childcare staff have 15 hours of continuing education a year. The present standard of 3 hours set by our state licensing agency is clearly inadequate considering the untrained personnel too often found in this business where minimum wages are the rule. Until the childcare business achieves better financial returns and can afford to pay decent wages to its employees, many programs will continue to have high staff turnover and offer less than good quality services, and to be slanted towards those who can afford to pay.

At this time, we understand that there are too few [redacted] day care centers in Southern Nevada that offer a sliding scale for fees. In order to make childcare available to low income families, there must be an increase in the availability of such programs.

There is a reference on page 23 of the Act to priority being given to "offer family support services". As social workers, this is the area about which we have most concern. Not every child in daycare needs the services of a social worker, but for the minority who do, availability of this service can be critical to the adjustment of the child to daycare. Also, many problems can be identified in this early period of life that will respond to social work intervention and prevent difficulties as children move on into school. Attached is a brief paper prepared by our national staff that details the role of social workers in the provision of quality childcare. We would like to see more attention given in the Act to the importance of professional social work in ensuring quality day care, especially for children with special needs.

The issue of childcare for children in school is also of great concern to social workers, who often become aware of the dangers to children of coming home to an empty house. Stories of child abuse often point to this being a serious risk for children. It is also a cause of great stress to parents who try to monitor their children's activities by phone, sometimes to the detriment of their work. One answer is the new "Safe Key" program which is being implemented at a number of Las Vegas schools. However, even the modest cost of $20 per week per child may be beyond the means of low income families, and more support for this program is needed. We further suggest that some attention be given to providing grants to voluntary, non-profit organizations to develop after school programs for school age children.

There are mentions in the bill of providing childcare beyond the normal working hours. In this state, where 24 hour activities are the norm, this needs to be aggressively addressed and childcare provided day and night, every day of the week.

The focus of this Act is on day care provided in family homes or daycare centers. Consideration should also be given to providing incentives to businesses to establish daycare programs for their employees.

In summing up, the Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers wishes to express support for the Act, which addresses the problems involved in the provision of childcare. This is not just a problem for the parents of young children; it is a societal problem, and we should be concerned about what happens to young children in daycare and how they are being prepared for life. Many of the children brought to St. Jude's Ranch for abused and neglected children in Boulder City, Nevada, are the victims of lack of good childcare that is affordable and available. Without that care, they are left with little or no supervision, and drift into trouble and become out-of-control. In providing quality daycare for all children who need it, we will be preventing many serious problems with which we would have to deal in later life.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Act for Better Child Care Services of 1987.

CHILD CARE IN AMERICA: A Social Work Response

Today a majority of young children have both parents, or the only parent present, as part of the workforce. In fact, while 39% of married mothers with infants were in the workforce in 1982; in 1986, more than half of mothers with infants were in the workforce. The increasing participation in the labor force of persons who need child care arrangements for the children provides a challenge to the public and private sector and to parents themselves. There is a need to develop a continuum of child care alternatives. These alternatives must meet the needs of different age children, and also respond to job schedules, varied geographic locations, and the income limitations of the parents. The development and introduction into Congress of the Act for Better Child Care bill in November 1987 heightened public awareness of the need to strengthen the federal role in child care. Horror stories of child deaths and child sexual abuse in both family and center-based day exemplifies the need for standards as well as professional assessment and screening of day care providers.

As more people join the labor force, mothers are less able to informally depend on extended family and friends who in the past stayed home and took care of the children. The informal network needs to be replaced with a formal system that meets a number of criteria. For day care alternatives to be viable to parents they must be:

Affordable
Available
Accessible
Quality

Affordable day care means that:

1. We have to avoid the development of a two tier system where higher income people can purchase better quality care than low income people.

2. We need to look at corporate benefits and subsidies as a way to assist working parents so that the cost of day care doesn't become a disincentive to work. Currently only 30% of the low-income parents eligible for subsidized day care can be served due to limited funds.

Available day care means:

There needs to be a variety of alternatives available to meet the needs of individual families and communities. Options should include:

1. family day care
2. center-based day care for infants and older children
3. on-site day care
4. day care for children with special needs
5. day care for sick children
6. programs for latch-key children
7. programs in schools for teen mothers

Accessible day care means that:

1. it needs to be located near transportation

2. have alternatives available with flexible hours

3. have a variety of locations to meet the needs of families

4. be near to the home or the workplace.

Quality day care means:

There needs to be standards to evaluate family day care and center based day care. Standards need to relate to staffing, the program offered and the physical environment. There must be professional staff to implement the standards. Minimum health screening, safety inspections and training are not sufficient to promote the necessary level of quality.

Social workers can respond to this crisis by working to make child care a quality service that is affordable, accessible and available. Social workers can also serve as a support to families. They can help to ensure the well-being of children and support the economic stability of families by playing a variety of roles. This includes:

- Resource development - expand the array of services available, including work with community organizations, corporations and parent groups. This includes research and data collection as well as expansion of information and referral networks.

- Policy development and advocacy
- Active role in developing and setting standards for day care at the federal, state and local level.
- Work with corporations to include child care benefits as a service to employees.
- Serve as staff to agencies that implement standards
- Services to parents
  - Provide education on what to look for and how to evaluate day care
  - Provide support to parents who are stressed or need assistance in decision-making
  - Provide support in child's adjustment to day care
  - Develop resource networks and support groups.
- Services to care providers
  - Training in child development
  - Support positive relationships between care-providers and parents
  - Assist in developing program and child-oriented environment
  - Provide training on issues related to children with special needs
  - Provide assessment of appropriateness as day care providers.

The child care crisis will continue to grow. By 1995, 66% of all preschool children will have mothers in the workforce and 4/5 of 7-18 year olds will have working mothers. A multi-faceted response must be developed and social workers are at a critical point to assist parents, the government and corporations in meeting this challenge.

STATEMENT OF STEPHEN J. MEAD

The City of Las Vegas under the leadership of:

Major: Lurie
Councilmen: Nolen, Bunker, Miller and Adamsen
City Manager: Hall

Has developed a progressive dynamic Department of Parks, Recreation and Sr. Citizens Activities under the direction of Chris Stanfill.

One of its many undertakings as a Department is the Community School System currently operating out of four locations within the City.

Charleston Heights -- Garside
Baker Park -- Fremont
Robison
Brinley

The City has recognized the existance of a growing population; "THE LATCHKEY CHILD"

The Baker Park Community School responded to the challenge by developing the "SAFEKEY PROGRAM" This program is a cooperative effort with the City of Las Vegas, the City's Community School System and the Clark County School District

The Safekey program is designed to assist working parents with their elementar school children from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Monday through Friday. Safekey provide a safe alternative for the latchkey child.

The safekey program is now operating out of all four of the City Community School locations. Baker Park Community School has provided information on thi program both locally and nationally. (from North Las Vegas to Columbus, Ohio) The "Safekey Program" was featured at the 1985 National Community Education Association annual convention.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM FUNDED?

For a 180 DAY normal school year the total cost per site is		$16,000.
Twelve parents paying $20.00 per week for the service =	8,000.	
The City of Las Vegas contributes Admin/Supervisory staff	4,000.	
The Clark County School District provides Facilities worth	4,000.	
Total		$16,000.

The City's Community School system is currently operating safekey programs in approx. 1/3 of the elementary and sixth grade centers within its City limits. That is only 15% of the total sites in the CCSD. The City will need to expand its staffing levels to supervise all of its sites, While other governmental enities will also need expanded resources to implement similar programs

Because the programsrun on such a break even basis (Fees vs. Direct Costs) we have closed three sites in low/moderate income areas because of low enrollment

One of these sites was re-opened with a private industry contibution from Nevada Savings. This will only run up to the end of this school year.

FACTS: From Harold L. Hodgkinson Ed Research Services 1986-87

School enrollment nationwide will increase for ages 5-9 until 1995

School enrollment nationwide will increase for ages 10-13 until 2005

Nationally for the class of 2000

24% from below the poverty line

50% from single parents

66% from mothers employed outside the home

30% latchkey children

Locally with current school district projections and the national stats on latchkey children we have estimated approx. 22,500 of our Las Vegas children will be latchkey children in the year 2000.

CONCERNS:

** Our Community has a need for expanding this service beyond the City limits of Las Vegas. A steering committee is being formed to create action on this problem

** Their is a need to provide for scholarships and sliding scales for low to moderate income familys. Public and private cooperative support will need coordination

** Our Community has a big need for expanded hours; early morning, and later evenings

** Their is a need for supervised activities for Summers and Quad Breaks With overcrowded facilities and more and more year-around schools the traditional summers have been changed to three week breaks every nine weeks. City and County Recreation Departments have depended upon school facilities to provide this service to the community; now the facilities are no longer available, therefore, NO PROGRAM.

** Their is also a need to provide Tutorial programs within the after school system of programs.

** Insurance liaibility is of major concern to all govt. and private organizations. National Insurance legislation in this area is needed.

** Their is a need to support and utilize the Community Education process as a vehicle to provide these services accross boundry lines

I thank you for the opportunity to present my views on this a serious concern for all of us.

Senator REID. I have a couple questions of this panel. First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to express to the city of Reno how much I appreciate their allowing you to come down and participate in this hearing, and compliment the city of Reno on this innovative program. And, of course, I feel grateful for the program that the city of Las Vegas has initiated. And I think we are all grateful for Nevada Savings. Because the problem we found with these programs is that they—where they are needed the most people can't afford the basic cost. So Nevada Savings is to be complimented in saving one of those programs.

Judge McGroarty, your testimony was depressing, but yet educational.

You, as I understand it, hold the record for being the juvenile court judge for the longest time, is that not true?

Mr. MCGROARTY. Are you saying I'm crazy?

Yes; longest continuous service.

Senator REID. We are fortunate to have someone of your caring.

The cases that you handle on a daily basis aren't those that we see in the newspaper. Quite to the contrary, law does not allow publications of names, places—of the really horrible things that you see on a daily basis. You have expressed to me in our private conversations the daily horrors that go on down on Bonanza in the hearings that take place there.

And I think that somehow, even though you explained to us these tales, I think many times it's difficult to put these into dollars and cents. The county is fighting for money on a daily basis. You heard the statistics that I gave. Namely, for every $1 spent for children, we save in welfare costs, cost in the criminal justice system, and in the education system almost $5. Would you acknowledge and agree those figures are accurate?

Mr. MCGROARTY. Oh, yes.

Part of the story you didn't tell. For example, welfare cost. You get a lady comes in and she's charged with neglect. Why? Because she sends her children to school without adequate clothing, or the children are begging money to buy food because they are hungry. These children are taken away from their parents, generally a single mother, and then they come into court and they are told they have to do this, this, and this to release the children back to them. Of course, it's a classic catch 22 situation. Mom goes out and says, I'll enroll in the work program because the work program will provide child care, but I can't get the child back until I have an adequate residence and I can't get adequate residence if I don't make enough money.

Then they will say go down to the section 8 program. Put on a waiting list 6 months to 1 year.

Senator REID. We had a dilemma, Judge, and some places in Nevada the waiting list is 10 years.

Mr. MCGROARTY. I didn't want to get into that.

I appreciate your bringing it up. It's true. These women love their children, they want their children, but they love their children enough so they will come in and admit they are too poor to keep their children at home. Sometimes the mother will be charged with neglect for inadequate—environmental neglect, the house is a shambles because she doesn't have necessary money to make necessary repairs in the plumbing, for example. Housing, clothing, educational neglect. Mom doesn't get the child to school because she doesn't have transportation.

These are all facts, these aren't theories.

Thank you.

Senator REID. Yesterday evening I went to a facility on Maryland Parkway and they had arranged a group of ex and some present gang members to be there to discuss with me some of their problems.

The reason that I went there is to determine if, in fact, these children would acknowledge—some of these children are 19 years of age, some are 13 and 14—would acknowledge that their gang activity was a result of their having no supervision at home because their parents were separated, working; and without exception, every one of them said yes, that if they had had some supervision they don't think they would have gotten involved in these gangs.

Lieutenant Governor Miller, during the time that you were district attorney, you prosecuted thousands of people charged with crimes. Were any of these people, in your opinion, in the criminal justice system as a result of not having adequate child care?

Mr. MILLER. I don't think there's a question but a large percentage of those prosecuted didn't have adequate supervision.

Senator REID. I was given confidentially a letter written to Judge McGroarty, the name of which, of course, we won't talk about, but this is a heart rendering letter from a woman, unsolicited, who is complaining about the problems she's had with being a single parent of three children. And she's listed some of the problems that she's faced.

For example, one babysitter having poisoned her daughter and having had to call the poison control center. Another child eating paint. That she found a babysitter, child care facility, she wanted to take time off work, she had a week's vacation coming but they made her pay half-price during the week her child wasn't there, otherwise they wouldn't take the child when the child came back.

She listed here 11 problems relating to child care. How she thought her kindergarten child was being transported to school. She learned later this little 5-year-old child was having to walk to school.

The point that I would like to end this panel with, and maybe the two city representatives could comment on this, we hear about the word latchkey. But in your own terms, what does this mean? Latchkey is a word that somebody developed and it's kind of a throw-away now. Everyone is a latchkey. What, in your own words, is a latchkey child?

Mr. MEAD. It's just really someone that doesn't have any supervision at all after school.

And one of the things I didn't get to say, there's a need for this in the morning, there's a need for this later than 6 o'clock. The supervision doesn't just come there at 6 o'clock because we close our programs.

A latchkey child is someone that doesn't have any supervision.

Ms. WALLER. I think the term came about because many of the children were going to school with strings around their necks with a key on it. And that's how they were letting themselves in the house afterward, totally unsupervised.

Senator REID. I have heard people comment that this is the fault of our system. Why don't these parents rely more on their families, as an example?

Ms. WALLER. I think it's more out of economic necessity where two parents have to work.

Mr. McGROARTY. Senator Reid, I would cite to you the statistic that one out of three marriages today will end in divorce.

Senator REID. Judge, would you repeat those statistics. What happens economically to a husband and to a wife, a father and mother when the divorce takes place.

Mr. McGROARTY. According to Dr. Weisman, who wrote the book, "Divorce Revolution," the economic status of the woman declines by 73 percent. The economic status of the man—of course 99 or 95 percent of the cases involved the husband is not the custodial parent—42 percent increase in the economic status of the noncustodial parent. I should make it in terms of custodial versus noncustodial. In 95 percent of the cases the custodial is always the mother.

Senator REID. So the fact of the matter is that in this instance the women really suffer tremendously economically.

I really appreciate you sharing your wisdom and experience and knowledge with this committee.

Thank you very much.

STATEMENTS OF:

BARBARA G. BRENTS, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

PATRICIA HEDGECOTH, CHIEF, BUREAU OF SERVICES FOR CHILD CARE

JESSIE EMMETT, CHAIRWOMAN, STATE JOB TRAINING COORDINATING COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE STATE COUNCIL AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

JOHN SARB, UNITED WAY OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

Senator REID. The next panel, Barbara Brents, University of Nevada, Las Vegas Sociology Department; Barbara Clark, director, Clark County Child Care Services; Jessie Emmett, State of Nevada Job Training Office; and John Sarb, United Way of Southern Nevada.

We know that John Sarb was here earlier but he's not here now.

He's here.

Thank you very much.

The first witness will be Barbara Brents.

Would you please state your name and your profession or occupation?

STATEMENT OF BARBARA BRENTS

Ms. BRENTS. My name is Barbara Brents, assistant professor in the department of sociology at UNLV.

As of 1985 there were 26 million children under age 13 with working mothers in spaces in licensed day care centers and family day care homes for only 2.5 million children. Not all of these kids are running around unsupervised. About 94 percent of family day care homes are unlicensed and these account for a large percentage of child care. Nonetheless, there are estimates that 7 million children age 13 and under may be spending part of each day without adult supervision.

We have come to the point where we believe women do have the right to seek self-fulfillment and independent income in the working world. Yet when it comes to child care, there seems to still exist the mythical wish women should quit work and stay home with the kids. This wish is flat-out blind to reality.

Our economy, as well as our families, depends on the working mother. The national economy is increasingly based on the service industry and 62 percent of these jobs are filled by women. Women account for 60 percent of the total growth of the labor force since 1960. We still act as though dad bringing home the bacon to mom and the kids were the norm. The one-earner, two-parent household now accounts for less than one-fifth of all families with children. In other words, less than one-fifth of families currently have the internal structure to provide for their own child care.

Families today with the decline in wages over the last 15 years cannot survive without two earners in the home. In 1981 a study found poverty rates among couples would have been 50 percent higher if the women did not work. Further, over the past 15 years there's been a 120-percent increase in the number of single-parent households. I need not tell you how important women's labor is.

You heard figures on the number of children with working mothers. But over the past 9 years the number of infants with working mothers has increased. So just under one-half of all babies have mothers who work and the trends show no signs of leveling off.

The structure of the economy is changing, and with it the structure of our families. It seems to me much more than the fact of women working, it's our inability to recognize and adjust to these changes that damages the integrity of the family.

Over 40 percent of all American poor are children, and one-half of these live in single-parent households. Available adequate child care, as we heard, is among the largest barriers to low income participation in the work force and participation in education and training programs.

A 1982 Census Bureau survey found 45 percent of all single mothers and 36 percent of all low-income mothers would work if child care were available at reasonable cost. Clearly, providing child care would be useless if there were not jobs available. And given 44 percent of all new jobs created in the past 6 years paid less than $7,400 per year, child care is only a small step toward bringing people out of poverty, but it's an important one.

I need not remind you the United States has one of the highest infant mortality rates among Western countries simply because so many children are born into homes that cannot afford adequate nutrition or medical care.

Recent cuts in Social Security have contributed to the problem.

Families of the working poor, who now account for 41.5 percent of all adults in poverty, face further obstacles without child care assistance. On the average, and this varies by location, child care costs about $3,000 per year, which is almost one-half of the yearly minimum wage. This makes it nearly impossible for the working poor struggling alone to bring themselves and their children out of poverty.

The only reason middle-class families afford child care at all when it is available is because the industry is now subsidized, but it is subsidized by those who can afford it least, the women themselves. Day care is expensive. Day care workers are now among the lowest paid workers in the labor force. Two-thirds of children day care workers earn below poverty wages and 87 percent below the minimum wage.

Women who operate family day care homes survive only because their husbands work. The current state of the day care industry serves to keep women in poverty.

The current policy of little or no child care assistance is resulting in a two-tiered child care system. For those who can afford it or those who are lucky enough to be in a firm that provides child care, creative and educational programs provide a good environment for preschool growth. Yet increasingly, people are faced with the difficult choice of working and paying a large percentage of their income for substandard child care, or not working and using subassistance to survive.

Most of the other industrialized nations have realized that children are society's responsibility, particularly if women form a central part of the Nation's labor force. We are currently penalizing the children because we refuse to acknowledge the American family is as diverse in form as its people. Money for an adequate system of child care subsidy will be paid anyway through increased public assistance, medical bills for children, prison and juvenile costs for kids without supervision, or if we even ignore that, we will pay in losing an entire generation of a labor force. The issue is one of priorities: we either pay now or pay later.

PREPARED STATEMENTS

Senator REID. Your full statement will be made part of the record along with other statements submitted by the panel.

[The statements follow:]

STATEMENT OF BARBARA G. BRENTS

As of 1985 there were 26 million children under age 13 with working mothers, and spaces in licensed day care centers and family care homes for only 2.5 million children. Not all of these kids are running around unsupervised; about 94 percent of family day care homes are unlicensed, and these account for a large percentage of child care (Hofferth and Phillips 1987). Nonetheless, the Children's Defense Fund estimates that 7 million children 13 and under may be spending part of each day without adult supervision.

We have come to the point where we believe women do have the right to seek self-fulfillment and independent income in the working world. Yet when it comes to child care, there seems to still exist the mythical wish that mothers should quit work and stay home with the kids. This wish is flat-out blind to reality.

Our economy, as well as our families depend on the working mother. The national economy is increasingly based on the service industry--and 62 percent of these jobs are filled by women. Women account for 60 percent of the total growth of the labor force since 1960.

We still seem to act as though Dad bringing home the bacon to mom and the kids were the norm. The one-earner, two-parent household now accounts for only one-fifth of all families with children. In other words only one fifth of families currently have the internal structure to provide for their own child care. Families today, with the decline in real wages over the last 15 years, can not survive without two earners in the home. A 1981 study found that poverty rates among couples would have been 50 percent higher if the woman did not work (Sidel 1986). Further over the past 15 years there has been a 120 percent increase in the number of single parent households. I need not tell you how important woman's labor is for these families.

Today there are more school age children with working mothers than not. It is projected that by 1995 over 3/4 of school-aged and 2/3 of preschool children will have mothers in the work force (Hofferth and Phillips 1987). Over the past nine years the number of infants with working mothers has increased by 57 percent, so that now just under 1/2 of all babies have mothers who work, and the trends show no sign of leveling off.

The structure of the economy is changing, and with it the structure of our families. It seems that much more than the fact of women working, it is our inability to recognize and adjust to these changes that is damaging the integrity of the family and the future of our nation's children.

Over 40 percent of all American poor are children and 1/2 of these live in single parent households. Available and adequate child care is among the largest barriers to low-income women's participation in the work force and to participation in education and job training programs. A 1982 Census Bureau survey found that 45 percent of all single mothers and 36 percent of all low-income mothers would work if child care were available at reasonable costs (Harrington 1987). Clearly, providing child care would be useless if there were not jobs available for these people. And given that 44 percent of all new jobs created in the past six years paid less than $7400 per year, child care is only a small step toward bringing people out of poverty. Nonetheless, I need not remind you that the United States has one of the highest infant mortality rates among Western countries simply because so many children are born into homes that cannot afford adequate nutrition or medical care. And recent cuts in social services and child care funding have contributed to the problem:

Families of the working poor, who now account for 41.5 percent of all adults in poverty, face further obstacles without child care assistance. On the average, child care costs $3000 per year, which is almost one-half of the yearly minimum wage. This makes it nearly impossible for these working poor, particularly women struggling alone, to bring themselves and their children out of poverty.

That a lack of adequate child care penalizes the children of single parent households and the working poor is clear. And important for the future of the family, studies are showing that women of all socio-economic backgrounds are making decisions on whether or not to have children at all based on the availability of child care (Hofferth and Phillips 1987).

The only reason middle class families can afford child care at all, when it is available, is because the industry is now subsidized--but it is subsidized by those who can afford it least, women themselves. Day care workers are among the lowest paid workers in the American labor force. According to the Children's Defense Fund, two-thirds of of day care center staff earn below poverty level wages, and 87% earn below minimum wage. Women who operate family day care homes survive only because their husbands work. The current state of the day care industry serves to keep women in poverty.

The current policy of no or little child care asssistance is resulting in a two-tiered child care system. For those who can afford it, or those lucky enough to be in a firm that provides child care, creative and educational programs provide a good environment for preschool growth (but only 1,800 of 6 million employers currently provide child care assistance). Yet increasingly, people are faced with the difficult choice of working and paying a large percentage of their income for substandared child care, or not working and using public assistance to survive.

Most of the other industrialized nations have realized that children are society's responsibility, particularly if women form a central part of the national labor force. We are currently penalizing the children because we refuse to acknowledge that the American family is as diverse in form as its people. Money for an adaquate system of child care subsidy will be paid anyway through increased public assistance, medical bills for children, prison and juvenile costs for kids without supervision, or if we even ignore that, we will pay in loosing entire generation of a labor force. The issue is one of priorities, we can either pay now or pay later.

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Harrington, Michael. "Who Are The Poor? A Profile of the Changing Faces of Poverty in the United States in 1987." Justice for All National Office, Washington D.C.

Hofferth, Sandra and Deborah A. Phillips. "Child Care in the United States, 1970 to 1995." Journal of Marriage and the Family. 49 (August):559-571, 1987.

Sidel, Ruth. Women and Children Last. Viking: New York, 1986.

STATEMENT OF JESSIE EMMETT

I am Jessie Emmett, Chairwoman of the State Job Training Coordinating Council. I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the SJTCC, advisory Council to the Governor, and the Governor's Job Training Office.

> "Single mothers with children are unquestionably the most visible growing group of poor in Nevada. About 65 percent of single women with children living in poverty are working, but three fourths of them are employed only part-time. They are usually young women with limited job skills creating a difficult situation with the cost of housing, energy, food and child care." John Walker, State Office of Community Services.

WOMEN AND SINGLE PARENTS IN THE WORK FORCE

Responding to the child care needs of single parents is critical to their ability to function in the labor force. More than 50% of the work force are women and almost 70% of working age women are working (Hodgkinson, H.L., 1985).[2]

The National Commission on Working Women (NCWW) reports 77% of women who are in the work force are employed in non professional occupations and nearly two-thirds of all minimum wage earners are women. In 1984, the median income of families maintained by women was $12,803.

The number of single mothers has more than doubled in the past 25 years. In 1984, 25% of all mothers in the labor force were heads of household. This percentage continues to increase as more women and single parents enter the work force.[3]

According to the Council of Chief State School Officers Model State Statute, 60% of the children born in 1983 will live with only one parent before the age of 18; 90% of these children will live in female-headed households. Further, a majority of these households will have incomes under $10,000.

Single parents are a significant portion of Nevada's economically disadvantaged population. There are over 31,000 single parents with children under 18 in Nevada — almost 5% of the 16 - 55 year old population in the State of Nevada; 25% are women with children under the age of six.[4/5]

Single parents in Nevada receive Aid to Dependent Children three times more often than the general population. Conservatively speaking, at least 42% of the single parents in Nevada are economically disadvantaged and of those, approximately 24% are working and disadvantaged.

JTPA TITLE II SINGLE PARENTS[6]

Approximately 31% of all adults who received job training services under JTPA in the State of Nevada were single parents. Almost 7.5% of all youth served in the state were also single parents.

More than half of the single parents who applied for job training programs in Nevada were certified as economically disadvantaged but were not receiving welfare or food stamps. 48% were receiving ADC or food stamps.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN NEVADA (JOIN)

JOIN provided job training services to 2,962 youth and adults under Title II in Northern Nevada. Over 32% of the adults and 6% of the youth (14-21) were single parents. Almost nine percent of all participants were single parents.

NEVADA BUSINESS SERVICES (NBS)

In Southern Nevada, NBS provided job training services to 3,891 youth and adults under Title II. Over 8% of the youth and 22% of the adults were single parents.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) Title II - 8% Education Funds

Nevada's community colleges provide occupational training classes and work experience for economically disadvantaged adults. Of the 1009 participants, 41.5% were single parents.

We asked the single parent center coordinators to relate their experiences concerning child care. These are the responses we received.

> "About 15-20% of single parents attending Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) drop-out due to child care expenses." Cheryl Woehr, TMCC Single Parent Center.
>
> "At Western Nevada Community College, approximately 10% of our single parents dropout due to child care. This is lower than others because of our on-site child care center. However, 33% do have problems with child care because our child care center is not open in the evenings when some of our classes are offered. Approximately 25% of our applicants never follow through with the program because of child care." Dick Kale, WNCC Single Parent Center.
>
> "Approximately 35% of Clark County Community College's single parent program dropouts cite child care as the reason. This is 21.3% of our total terminees." Dorothie Bristow, CCCC Single Parent Center.
>
> "None of our participants dropout for child care reasons. Northern Nevada Community College pays child care directly to the provider when the student is attending classes. Since transportation and child care are two of the strongest barriers for the economically deprived, we provide child care funds to individuals so they can avail themselves of education and occupational training. We are, of course, limited in the number of parents we can serve, and we cannot provide child care funds after they complete their program and become employed." Ike Cress, NNCC Single Parent Center.

CHILD CARE EXPENSES

The National Commission on Working Women states that no more than ten percent of gross income should be spent on child care. Average child care costs in the State of Nevada range from $50 - $75 per week per child under 6 and $25 - $40 for children attending elementary school full-time. Most centers offer a 10% discount for each additional child.

The centers sampled were regular day-care centers, not licensed home care centers. In some cases homes are less expensive, but not always. A non-licensed home care center in Gardnerville charges $60 for one child and the parent must supply lunch and transportation.

A center in Carson City requires the parents to pay a year round weekly fee regardless of whether the child attends the center. This center closes on all school holidays and two weeks in the summer. The regular weekly fee is still required. Transportation is not provided, but lunch is provided.

Some centers provide breakfast, lunch and transportation to kindergarten or elementary school. No matter what the benefits, the costs are extremely high for a single income family.

2 - 6 year old children	
$50 per week - one child	$2600/year
$95 per week - two children	$4940/year

6 - 12 year old children	
$30 per week - one child	$1560/year
$54 per week - two children	$2808/year

If ten percent of income is the amount a family can afford for child care expenses (NCWW), a family would have to earn over $49,000 a year to afford child care for two children under six or $28,000 a year for two children over six.

Two income families can probably afford to pay day care for two school aged children. Single parents, even college educated, cannot afford, without hardship, to pay for two school aged children. Do we even have to ask ourselves why most school aged children of single parents come home from school to an unsupervised home?

NEED FOR MORE AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE

Adults with dependent children need child care to participate in job training and education programs, to search for work, and to be employed. Affordable, high quality child care is the combined responsibility of parents, providers, employers, and federal and state governments. "The supply of affordable child care lags so far behind the demand, that more than 16% of children including many pre-school children may be going without care."[1]

In order to have a stable workforce, we must provide for the children of working parents. Quality child care will help to develop motivated youngsters. We all agree that inadequate child care arrangements are likely to have serious long term consequences on children — leading to school failure, delinquency and ultimately unemployability.

Job training efforts help welfare recipients and disadvantaged citizens become competitive for the jobs that are available; however, the income from these jobs is sometimes not sufficient to support the family and provide child care. Economic self-sufficiency based on one parent working may not be a realistic goal for many. Assistance, particularly in the form of child care subsidy, is needed for many to support their families.

Ideally, child care funding should continue beyond the education and training. Current child care funding is limited and usually only available while the client is participating in a job training or education program. Unless subsidy can be provided long enough for the recipient to reach a wage level that is sufficient to pay current child care costs, the recipient will find herself working full-time without money to pay child care. The result — the parent leaves the job and returns to welfare or the children are left unsupervised.

> "Many single parents are in desperate need of training programs. The biggest problem for them to participate is child care." Ave De Leon, Hispanic Outreach Worker, Elko County Mental Health Center.

> "Affordable day care for children must be available to allow parents to obtain and retain positions. Due to high costs of child care, parents are forced to stay home as they generally are unable to find a position that will pay a high enough wage to cover the child care costs. Many parents indicate the need for full day care for their children. They indicate they are not able to afford even the most nominal fee until they receive a higher wage through promotion and/or

further education. " Cloyd Phillips, Executive Director, Community Services Agency.

At community meetings throughout the state, the need for child care assistance is cited as one of the top three concerns. Reno's Biggest Little City Committee has a special task force subcommittee dedicated to latch key program implementation.

CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

It is clear from the statistics presented in our testimony, that job training programs and education programs for the disadvantaged cannot be completely successful without recognizing the need for child care. Individuals who attend training programs can usually be placed in positions paying $10,000 to $12,000 per year.

If child care were available to single parents, they could continue their education or training programs. Longer term training would provide better wages and more permanence -- a chance to be placed in positions with medical benefits and advancement opportunities.

Our programs can only be successful if we can provide follow-up services. If we consider our responsibility finished when an individual has completed training and is working, we have not responded to their long-term needs. We must encourage sliding scale child care subsidies and the use of community centers, schools, employers, etc. to provide child care for our future workforce.

In addition to providing subsidies to individuals, we must recognize the need for additional quality day care centers. Due to the liability of running a day care center, insurance rates are astronomical. If we expect quality day care, we must be willing to reduce this liability so that business and schools can get involved.

In conclusion, I reiterate my earlier statement — it is imperative that the government be involved in this issue. We commend you for recognizing the child care issue — its importance to the economy of our nation and its affect on the stability of our families.

REFERENCES

[1] Community Child Care Services, Inc., Nevada Women's Fund Proposal, October 1987.

[2] Department of Education, Nevada State Plan for Occupational Education.

[3] National Commission of Working Women, An Overview of Women in the Work Force.

[4] Employment Security Department, Research Division, Nevada Annual Planning Statistics-FY 1989

[5] Department of Education, Nevada State Plan for Occupational Education.

[6] State Job Training Office, JTPA Annual Reports: July 1, 1986 - June 30, 1987.

STATEMENT OF BARBARA CLARK, CHILD WELFARE LICENSING OFFICER, CLARK COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, I AM PLEASED TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU ON BEHALF OF THE LICENSING AGENTS THROUGHOUT NEVADA TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF CHILD CARE.

I AM BARBARA CLARK, CHILD WELFARE LICENSING OFFICER FOR CLARK COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE. THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONY WAS PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH PATRICIA HEDGECOTH, BUREAU OF SERVICES FOR CHILD CARE, STATE OF NEVADA.

IN NEVADA, THE BUREAU OF SERVICES FOR CHILD CARE HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LICENSING, MONITORING AND PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CHILD CARE FACILITIES; HOWEVER, THE BUREAU SHARES LICENSING RESPONSIBILITIES, AS OUTLINED IN 432A, WITH ANY COUNTY OR INCORPORATED CITY WHICH ESTABLISHES A CHILD CARE LICENSING AGENCY UNDER AN ENACTED ORDINANCE. CARSON CITY, THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS, WASHOE COUNTY AND CLARK COUNTY LICENSE IN ADDITION TO THE BUREAU. LICENSING AGENCIES MUST ADOPT STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS WHICH MUST NOT BE LESS RESTRICTIVE THAN THOSE ADOPTED BY THE BUREAU AND WHICH TAKE EFFECT ONLY UPON APPROVAL BY THE BUREAU. STATE REGULATIONS ARE ADOPTED BY A 5-MEMBER POLICY MAKING BOARD APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR.

THERE ARE CURRENTLY 586 LICENSED CHILD CARE FACILITIES IN 15 COUNTIES. OF THAT NUMBER, 268 ARE CHILD CARE CENTERS AND/OR PRE-SCHOOLS; 315 ARE FAMILY OR GROUP CARE HOMES; AND 3 ARE INSTITUTIONS. THERE ARE 18,887 SPACES AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN IN THESE LICENSED FACILITIES.

THE AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE VARIES DEPENDING ON FACTORS SUCH AS LOCATION, COST AND SERVICES OFFERED. AFFORDABLE, QUALITY CHILD CARE IS A CONTINUING AND GROWING CONCERN OF YOUNG PARENTS, SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES AND FAMILIES ON LIMITED INCOMES. THERE IS A

GROWING NEED FOR 24-HOUR AND WEEKEND CARE; HOWEVER, THE CARE IS COSTLY FOR PROVIDERS AND PARENTS. A RECENT STATEWIDE TELEPHONE SURVEY INDICATED THAT CHILD CARE IS AVERAGING THE PARENT $47.50 TO $75 WEEKLY FOR A PRE-SCHOOL AGE CHILD, AND $55 TO $85 WEEKLY FOR INFANT/TODDLER CARE.

NEVADA HAS FEW NON-PROFIT CENTERS OFFERING A SLIDING FEE TO PARENTS WITH LIMITED INCOMES - A TOTAL OF 6 THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THESE CENTERS, ALONG WITH THE HEAD START PROGRAMS, ARE OPERATING AT CAPACITY WITH EXTENDED WAITING LISTS. THE ABC BILL WOULD HELP ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE DEMANDS FOR LOW AND MODERATE INCOME CHILD CARE. THE DEMANDS FOR AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE ARE INCREASING ALONG WITH SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES IN NEVADA HAVE MORE THAN DOUBLED FROM 1970 TO 1980. IN 1970 THERE WERE 9,600 SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES, AND BY 1980 THIS NUMBER INCREASED BY 146% TO MORE THAN 23,000 SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. WITH NEVADA'S POPULATION GROWTH RATE (SECOND IN THE NATION) ALL INDICATIONS SUGGEST THAT OUR GROWTH IN SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES IS CONTINUING. ALSO, NEVADA CENSUS STATISTICS SHOW THAT IN 1980 ONE OUT OF EVERY THIRD POOR PERSON IN NEVADA WAS UNDER THE AGE OF 18 YEARS. IN 1980, THE POVERTY RATE FOR CHILDREN STOOD AT 10%; HOWEVER, NEVADA POVERTY RATES FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN ARE EVEN HIGHER. IN 1980 THE POVERTY RATE FOR CHILDREN 6 YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER WAS 11.7%, HAVING RISEN FROM THE 1970 LEVEL OF 9.7%.

THE NEVADA POVERTY RATE FOR BLACK CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE IS ALSO INCREASING. NEARLY ONE IN THREE BLACK CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6 WAS IN POVERTY IN 1980. WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT THESE STATISTICS IS THE FACT THAT DURING THE DECADE OF THE 1970's, CHILDREN IN NEVADA WERE THE ONLY GROUP WITH A RISING POVERTY RATE.

HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS ARE A RESULT OF CONTINUED STAFF DEVELOPMENT WITH CONSISTENT TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. INVESTMENT IN PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION IS SOCIALLY PROFITABLE. RESEARCH SHOWS US

THAT STUDENTS WHO HAVE HAD QUALITY PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION REQUIRE LESS COSTLY FORMS OF EDUCATION AS THEY PROGRESS THROUGH THE SCHOOL SYSTEM WITH LESS SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES. LONG TERM EFFORTS OF A SUCCESSFUL PRE-SCHOOL EXPERIENCE CAN RESULT IN A REDUCTION OF WELFARE PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM, LOWER TEENAGE PREGNANCY RATES, LOWER DROP-OUT RATES AND AN INCREASE IN LABOR-FORCE PARTICIPATION. (THE YPSILANTI PERRY PRE-SCHOOL REPORT--1978).

AVAILABLE AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IS ALSO AN URGENT NATIONAL ISSUE. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FROM PARENT GROUPS, LOCAL BUSINESSES, PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND OTHER AVAILABLE COMMUNITY RESOURCES CAN BUILD SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS WITH FUNDING ASSISTANCE.

REASONABLE COST, SUPERVISED ACTIVITIES AND ADEQUATE TRANSPORTATION WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO A SUCCESSFUL, WORKABLE PROGRAM. PUBLIC EDUCATION THROUGH YOUTH AGENCIES, BUSINESSES, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT CAN INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARENT INVOLVEMENT. THE LACK OF SUPERVISION FOR LATCHKEY CHILDREN CONTRIBUTES TO AN INCREASE OF REPORTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

NEVADA HAS EXPERIENCED A SMALL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYER SUPPORTED CHILD CARE SERVICES. EMPLOYERS INVESTING IN CHILD CARE FIND A LOWER JOB TURNOVER, LOWER ABSENTEEISM, IMPROVED EMPLOYEE ATTITUDES, IMPROVEMENT IN COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND AN INCREASE IN ATTRACTING NEW EMPLOYEES.

THE NATIONAL DAY CARE STUDY FINDINGS SUGGEST A SHORT PRESCRIPTION FOR GOOD QUALITY CHILD CARE: SMALL GROUPS SUPERVISED BY LEAD CAREGIVERS WITH CAREER PREPARATION IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION. ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH QUALITY ARE CURRICULUM ORIENTATION AND THE AMOUNT OF INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SPACE AVAILABLE PER CHILD. DESPITE THESE FINDINGS, CHILD CARE DRAWS HEAVILY ON

MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS, USUALLY WOMEN. THE RESULT IS A HIGH RATE OF TURNOVER AND DIFFICULTY IN RETAINING QUALITY STAFF. ALL AFFECT THE QUALITY OF CHILD CARE. HIGH COSTS TO PARENTS OFTEN RESULT IN THE USE OF UNLICENSED CARE, A LOWER QUALITY OF CARE OR NO SUPERVISION AT ALL. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS AND CHILD CAREGIVERS CAN GIVE PARENTS SOME ASSURANCE OF A QUALITY PROGRAM AND CHILDREN MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES.

LICENSING ENTITIES NEED TO USE THE INFORMATION FROM THE STUDIES ON CHILD CARE WISELY IN PASSING REGULATIONS APPROPRIATE FOR THE AGE AND DEVELOPMENTAL LEVEL OF CHILDREN. WE AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LICENSING AGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE STATE GIVE OUR SUPPORT TO THE ABC BILL. OUR PRIMARY GOALS ARE TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF CARE PROVIDED TO OUR CHILDREN AND TO BETTER ASSIST IN THE TRAINING OF LICENSING STAFF AND PROVIDERS.

IT IS IN WORKING TOGETHER ON THE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL THAT QUALITY CHILD CARE WILL BE BOTH AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE FOR ALL CHILDREN.

THIS STATEMENT CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY ON CHILD CARE.

Senator REID. I would be pleased now to hear from Barbara Clark, director of Clark County Child Care Services.

Ms. HEDGECOTH. Barbara Clark was unable to be here today.

Senator REID. You sure didn't look like Barbara to me.

STATEMENT OF PATRICIA HEDGECOTH

Ms. HEDGECOTH. I am Patricia Hedgecoth, chief of the Bureau of Services for Child Care for the State of Nevada. Barbara and I prepared the testimony in cooperation.

In Nevada the Bureau of Services for Child Care has the responsibility for licensing, monitoring, and providing technical assistance to child care facilities. However, the bureau shares licensing responsibilities as outlined in 432A with any county or incorporated city which establishes a child care licensing agency under an enacted ordinance. Carson City, the city of Las Vegas, Washoe County, and Clark County, license in addition to the bureau.

Licensing agencies must adopt standards and regulations which must not be less restrictive than those adopted by the bureau and which take effect only upon approval by the bureau. State regulations are adopted by a five-member policymaking board appointed by the Governor.

There are currently 586 licensed child care facilities in 15 counties. Of that number 268 are child care centers and/or preschools; 315 are family or group care homes; and three are institutions. There are 18,887 spaces available for children in these licensed facilities.

The availability of child care varies depending on factors such as location, costs, and services offered.

Affordable quality child care is a continuing and growing concern of young parents, single-parent families, and families on limited incomes.

There's a growing need for 24-hour weekend care. However, the care is costly both for providers and parents.

A recent statewide telephone survey indicated that child care is averaging the parent $47.50 to $75 weekly for a preschool age child and $55 to $85 for an infant toddler.

Nevada has few nonprofit centers offering a sliding fee scale to parents with limited incomes. A total of six throughout the State. These, along with the Head Start programs are operating at capacity with extended waiting lists.

The ABC bill would help alleviate some of the demands for low- and moderate-income child care. The demands for affordable child care are increasing along with single-parent families. Single-parent families in Nevada have more than doubled from 1970 to 1980. In 1970 there were 9,600 single-parent families and by 1980 this number increased by 146 percent to more than 23,000 single-parent families

With Nevada's population growth rate all indications suggest that our growth in single-parent families is continuing.

Also, Nevada census statistics show in 1980 one out of every third poor person in Nevada was under the age of 18 years. In 1980 the poverty rate for children stood at 10 percent. However poverty rates for younger children are even higher.

In 1980 the poverty rate for children 6 years of age and under was 11.7 percent, having risen from the 1970 level of 9.7 percent.

Nevada poverty rate for black children under 6 years of age is also increasing. Nearly one in three black children under the age of 6 was in poverty in 1980.

What is important about these statistics is the fact during the 1970's children in Nevada were the group with a rising poverty rate.

High quality programs are a result of continued staff development with consistent training and technical assistance. Investment in preschool education is socially profitable. Research shows us students who have had quality preschool education require less costly forms of education as they progress through the school system with less special education services. Long-term efforts of a successful preschool experience can result in a reduction of welfare participation and involvement in the juvenile justice system, lower teenage pregnancy rates, lower dropout rates, and increase in the labor force participation.

Available after-school activities for children is also an urgent national issue. Community involvement for parent groups, local businesses, public schools, and other available community resources can build programs with funding assistance.

Reasonable costs, supervised activities, and adequate transportation will also contribute to a successful, workable program. Public education through youth agencies, businesses, State, and local government can increase public awareness. The lack of supervision for latchkey children contributes to an increase of reported child abuse and neglect.

Nevada has experienced a small increase in the number of child care services. Employers investing in child care find a lower job turnover, lower absenteeism, improved employee attitudes, improvement in community relations, and increase in attracting employees.

The national day care study suggests a short prescription for good quality child care. Small groups supervised by lead caregivers with preparation in child development and early childhood education.

Also associated with quality are curriculum orientation and the amount of indoor and outdoor space available per child. It is working together in the local, State, and Federal level that quality child care will be affordable and available for all children.

Senator REID. Thank you for your testimony.

You can express to Barbara the testimony is excellent, with citations and everything in the body of the testimony.

Jessie Emmett, please.

STATEMENT OF JESSIE EMMETT

Ms. EMMETT. Senator.

Thanks very much, Senator Reid, for giving us the opportunity to be here.

I am chairwoman of the State Job Training Coordinating Council and I'm presenting this testimony on behalf of the State Council and Advisory Council to the Governor.

Single mothers with children are unquestionably the most visible growing group of poor in Nevada. About 65 percent of single women with children living in poverty are working, but three-fourths of them are employed only part time. They are usually young women with limited job skills, creating a difficult situation with the cost of housing, energy, food, and child care.

Responding to the needs of single parents is critical to their ability to function in the labor force.

Approximately 31 percent of all adults who receive job training service under JTPA in the State of Nevada are single parents. Almost 7½ percent of all youth served in the State were also single parents.

The Nevada Department of Education title II, Nevada's community colleges provide occupational training classes and work experience for economically disadvantaged adults. Of the 1,009 participants, 41½ percent were single parents. We asked the single parent center coordinators to relate their experiences concerning child care. These are the responses we received.

About 15 to 20 percent of single parents attending Truckee Meadows Community College drop out due to child care expenses. At Western State Community College approximately 10 percent of our single parents drop out due to child care. This is lower than others because of our on-site child care center.

Approximately 25 percent of our applicants never follow through with the program because of child care. Approximately 35 percent of Clark County Community College's single parent program dropouts cite child care as the reason.

Northern Nevada Community College pays child care directly to the provider when the student is attending classes. Since transportation and child care are two of the strongest barriers of the child care deprived, we provide child care funds to individuals so they can avail themselves of education and occupational training. We are, of course, limited in the number of parents we can serve and we cannot provide child care funds after they complete their programs and become employed.

The National Commission on Working Women states that no more than 10 percent of gross income—no more than 10 percent of gross income should be spent on child care. Average child care costs in the State of Nevada, we are hearing this over and over, range from $50 to $75 per week, per child, under 6 and $25 to $40 for children attending elementary school full time.

If 10 percent of income is the amount of money a family can afford for child care expenses, a family would have to earn—listen to this, $49,000 a year to afford adequate child care for two children under 6, or $28,000 a year for two children over 6.

Single parents even college educated cannot afford without hardship to pay for two school-age children. Do we need to ask ourselves why most school-aged children come home from school to an unsupervised home?

Adults with dependent children need child care to participate in job training and educational programs, to search for work and to be employed. Affordable high-quality child care is the combined responsibility of parents, providers, employers, Federal, and State governments. In order to have a stable work force we must provide for the children of these working parents.

We all agree that inadequate child care arrangements are likely to have serious long-term consequences on our children.

Job training efforts help welfare recipients and disadvantaged citizens become competitive for the jobs that are available. However, the income from these jobs is sometimes not sufficient to support the family and provide child care.

Economic self-sufficiency based on one parent working may not be a realistic goal for many. Assistance, particularly in the form of child care subsidy, is needed for many to support their families.

Current child care funding is limited and usually only available while the client is participating in a job training or education program.

Unless subsidy can be provided long enough for the recipient to reach a wage level that is sufficient to pay current child care costs, the recipient will find herself working full time without money to pay child care. The result, the parent leaves the job and returns to welfare and the children are left unsupervised.

If we consider our responsibility finished when an individual has completed training and is working, we have not responded to their long-term needs. We must encourage sliding scale child care subsidies and the use of community centers, schools, and so forth to provide child care.

I would like to touch briefly, I know my time is up, I'm presently associated with Nevada Savings & Loan in public relations. We have obviously expressed our concern with one of the programs and were able to fund for the remainder of the year. As a result of that, with Dr. Guinn's endorsement, we are attempting to spearhead a steering committee bringing together—and someone said this earlier—forces in our community, not just the city; the city, of course, is responsible for this program getting off the ground in the first place. But we would like to see the county, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, we'd like to see Henderson, Clark County School District, all of these entities with the private sector get together and really expand on this latchkey or Safekey Program. It's in place, it can be done, it is just a question of everybody getting together with a common goal, and that is to expand this program and reach all of these young people out there that are so in need.

Thank you very much.

Senator Reid. John Sarb.

STATEMENT OF JOHN SARB

Mr. Sarb. Thank you, Senator.

I'm with the United Way and I wouldn't want these remarks to be construed as a position formally adopted by United Way, that is not yet the case. At the same time, we have contacted many private employers. They indicate one of the biggest problems they have in employee turnover and absenteeism is child care problems on the part of their employees. So the cost being borne by the employers is significant in this regard.

At the same time, when asked if they would be willing to offer child care as a part of the workplace, for the most part, the answer was no. They are, indeed, leery of getting into that business. They see it as a business very different from their own and with liabilities that at least at the present time they are very nervous about.

Interestingly enough, at least one major employer polled employees about whether or not they'd like to see the company offer child care in that setting. And the employees resoundly said no. The reasons being, on the one hand, that proximity to home seems to be a more important preference for people rather than having child care close to work, because they may use child care at times other than when they are working.

Another consideration parents have is a fear of a kind of company store mentality if the child is in the workplace, near the workplace with the parent. Too much home and work for some people.

So while we would not want to regard that as universal, it's important we consider that. You cannot look at employer-provided child care as a quick fix to a very real issue.

Lieutenant Governor Miller pointed out that the issues of availability and affordability of child care are important. I think licensing efforts have certainly been intensified in recent years in response to child abuse and neglect concerns. And I think those have been effective. I served 6 years on the city of Las Vegas Child License Care Board. We saw extremely few instances of children being maltreated in licensed facilities. We saw several of the children being maltreated in unlicensed facilities.

At the same time, with that licensing comes cost. And we have done much to add the cost to the child care provider. A significant factor has been insurance cost, and certainly that's been well publicized. The availability of insurance, which is a requirement in the State and county and city, that problem is eased somewhat, the cost has not come down and that remains a big burden for the industry.

I think also in our efforts to regulate the industry, which is certainly appropriate where necessary, we cannot do so in a way that rules out innovative options for child care which may be lower costs, parent cooperatives, other efforts that may provide relief that the parents would choose and feel comfortable with, which may, nevertheless, run afoul of existing regulations and not be allowed to exist. We must be careful we don't do that.

At the same time, nonprofit or subsidized child care seems to be a big part of the answer for this and we are probably headed for trouble in that regard. There is moving both at the State and Federal levels much discussion about unfair competition by non-profits with small business and private enterprise. And that's a fairly difficult line to draw I think. Certainly no one wants to interfere unduly with free enterprise and their ability to survive in the United States. At the same time, subsidized or nonprofit child care may be an important part of the ends that we are all seeking together. So that's something we are going to have to pay attention to.

Senator REID. A couple questions. I appreciate each of the testimony that has been given.

Would you, Barbara Brents, give us your educational background.

Ms. BRENTS. I have a Ph.D. in sociology.

Senator REID. How long have you been teaching?

Ms. BRENTS. I've been teaching about 8 years. I moved to Nevada and completed my Ph.D. 1 year ago.

Senator REID. What has been your experience in studying children?

Ms. BRENTS. Actually, that's not my area of expertise. I'm doing research currently on policy for old age. But there are a lot of similar trends in the economy that are resulting in issues that I see are important.

Senator REID. The testimony that's been given here today indicates that one-half the total individual's income would have to be spent for child care. Isn't that a statement you made?

Ms. BRENTS. For minimum wage families.

Senator REID. That's only one child?

Ms. BRENTS. That's right.

Senator REID. If you multiply that, as indicated with the women that were here before us, they had an average of three children. So that would be more income—that would take more than their income?

Ms. EMMETT. That's absolutely right.

Senator REID. There were some statistics given in this panel that in 1970 in Nevada we had 9,600 single-parent families; 1980 we had 23,000 single-parent families and the way the State's growing now, I would assume by 1990 there would be more than 50,000 single-parent families. Does that sound reasonable?

You've also indicated that there are approximately 18,000 spaces available, isn't that right?

Ms. HEDGECOTH. That's correct.

Senator REID. So if each single parent had one child, that would, without saying, place a tremendous burden on those 18,000 spaces.

So I think it's clear from what we hear today, the testimony, that there certainly is not enough child care available. Regardless of the cost, there isn't enough child care available. Is that a fair statement?

Ms. HEDGECOTH. We did percentages across Nevada and from the licensing agents' availability, it varies from 75 to 85 percent that are full. So there is some available, yes. It's a matter of where they are located, what services they offer, and what the cost is.

When you get into a lower income family, what they are able to afford for child care, transportation issues. All those factors matter.

Senator REID. So we can't look only at the spaces available?

Ms. HEDGECOTH. No.

Senator REID. And that basically has been the testimony given here today; is that right?

Ms. HEDGECOTH. Yes.

Senator REID. I appreciate very much each of your testimony being given.

As you part I would indicate one of the areas I wanted to get into with Judge McGroarty and Lieutenant Governor Miller is the interesting phenomenon, we find that many of the fires that are started, the arson cases, are by children who have nothing else to do. They are not supervised. That's one area we can leave at some subsequent time.

But compounding that with one of the significant costs in our society is arson, which runs up insurance rates and the cost of conducting Government in general.

Thank you very much for your testimony.

STATEMENTS OF:

LINDSEY JYDSTRUP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, NEVADA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

DR. ROBERT WENTZ, SUPERINTENDENT, CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

JEAN CHILDS, EOB, CLARK COUNTY HEAD START PROGRAM

JAMES SPINELLO, ASSEMBLYMAN, NEVADA STATE ASSEMBLY

Senator REID. The next panel of witnesses will be Lindsey Jydstrup, Nevada State Education Association; Dr. Robert Wentz, superintendent, Clark County School District; Sylvia Bachoiochi, director, Holy Family Day Care Center; Jean Childs, EOB, Clark County Head Start Program; and the Honorable James Spinello, member of the Nevada State Assembly and member of the ways and means committee.

Some of our witnesses on this panel, one was here earlier and has left and hopes to return, the other has not yet arrived. So we would hear first from Lindsey Jydstrup, Nevada State Education Association.

Lindsey.

STATEMENT OF LINDSEY JYDSTRUP

Ms. JYDSTRUP. Thank you, Senator Reid, for this opportunity to testify today.

My name is Lindsey Jydstrup, director of communications for the Nevada State Education Association.

I would like to commend you for holding this hearing to bring public attention to the very critical issue of child care. As I'm sure you're aware, the National Education Association [NEA], our parent association, has been quite active on the issue. In 1986 the issue of early childhood development is addressed in NEA's live program for the 100th Congress. NEA is a strong advocate of strong legislation and we are appreciative for your cosponsorship of the ABC bill, Act for Better Child Care services.

NEA is also supportive of Senate bill 1995, the new School Child Care Demonstration Projects Act, which we feel would complement the ABC bill.

Rather than addressing specifics of legislation this morning I would like to speak on a more personal level about why classroom teachers are so concerned about this issue. I'm not currently in the classroom but I was a teacher for 6 years.

As teachers we are very concerned about the availability of high quality child care from children of infancy to older childhood. The research tells us how much children benefit from early childhood programs and reveals the link between early learning and later success at academic endeavors. Any first or second grade teacher, I'm sure, could tell you firsthand how important those early years are in a child's development.

The children we teach today, as I'm sure you're very aware, are very different from the children of 20, 30 years ago. More children come from single parents or two working parent households, and according to statistics from an article published in Education Week last spring, of the 3.6 million children who began school in September 1986, 25 percent are children who live in poverty; 14 percent are the children of teenage mothers; 14 percent will live in a broken home before they reach 18; and between 25 percent and 33 percent will be latchkey children.

Certainly the "Ozzie and Harriet" type household appears to be a thing of the past. Today 7 out of 10 women between 17 and 44 are working and nearly one-half of the women who had children in 1983 returned to work within 1 year. The divorce rate has soared from 395,000 divorces in 1960 to more than 1 million by 1985. These changes in demographics are a fact of life that we must begin to deal with now. Just what does this mean to education?

The absence of good affordable day care for the children of working parents and single parents is causing a number of serious problems in and out of our schools. Today's children are more likely to be unsupervised before and after school. Parents today often find it difficult to find the time to become actively involved in their children's education. Divorce and remarriage often cause emotional difficulties for students. And all of these factors have an impact on a child's ability to learn.

In a Lou Harris poll, one conducted this past summer, 1,000 teachers were asked to rank several possible causes of students' difficulties in schools. The problem they rank the highest was children being left on their own alone after school.

As teachers, we are concerned about the well-being of children. The total well-being of children. We are dedicated to the premise every child should be given the opportunity to achieve to the very best of his or her ability. And we care that our children become responsible, well-adjusted adults who contribute their own special talents to our society. We are concerned that our children are prepared for the jobs that are rapidly shrinking.

But if we are to succeed at helping our children meet their potential, we cannot operate in a vacuum. We cannot only care about what happens to our students between the ages of 6 and 17 and between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. A human being, particularly a child, is a very complex individual whose needs, progress, and development cannot be so easily compartmentalized.

Our concern is twofold. We are concerned about the availability and quality of child care. We believe it must be made available to every working parent and affordable, and that standards of safety and health must be maintained. We believe we must have a comprehensive national policy to address this problem. This can't be just the issue of the moment that we let disappear. Thank you.

Senator REID. Doctor Wentz.

STATEMENT OF ROBERT WENTZ

Dr. WENTZ. I'm Robert E. Wentz, superintendent of the Clark County School District.

Senator Reid, I'm pleased to have this opportunity to testify today on an issue that demonstrates excellent potential for turning the dead-end lives of the poor into a future of open opportunity. Your cosponsorship with Senator Dodd, along with Representative Kildee's companion legislation in the House, of the long-awaited linkage allowing the poor to, in the words of Congressman Goodling, "Have an even start with their monied kindergarten counterparts."

The strongest recent statement in support of developmental programs for preschool children eminated from a seemingly unlikely source, corporate America. The Committee for Economic Development reports "Investing In Our Children" and "Children In Need," are not just glossy cover documents, but forthright statements of commitment by the CEO's of the largest American corporations for returning America's competitive advantage. You know where they said it must begin? I quote.

"We are convinced that the earliest stages of educational development, elementary school and preschool for disadvantaged children, are where we will receive the best return on our educational investment."

Their belief is not simply rhetoric, for it is backed by strong research. Those findings are based on two studies that have surfaced during the past 2 years. The most significant of which is the Perry School study from Ypsilanti, MI.

For nearly two decades Head Start children were followed to determine the influence of high-quality early childhood education on their development and subsequent elementary and secondary school performance. The results were striking:

Reduction by one-half of the school dropouts. Reduction in delinquency and criminal involvement, reduction in welfare dependency, reduction in remedial education needs, improved overall school performance and improved postsecondary school participation and employment.

The evidence of the benefit derived from high-quality early childhood education programs is clear and apparent. This is particularly evident among poor children, and your bill is particularly sensitive to these children.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention in my remaining time my views concerning the necessary aspects of the legislation which need to be included to allow for maximum effectiveness. Most importantly, if we treat child care as daytime or nighttime custodial care and not as an absolutely wonderful opportunity to build it around a strong educational component, we will fail to break the bonds of poverty and give disadvantaged children an even start. In the words of Senator Kennedy, "Provide the smart start they deserve."

Let me be more specific on some vital components presently contained in the legislation plus some components worthy of consideration as this legislation works its way through Congress.

We ask you to designate education as the primary role of the program for recipient institutions and agencies. We ask you to allow for expansion of our soon-to-be operational early childhood education programs under the newly reauthorized chapter I of the School Improvement Act. We would ask you to provide for a linkage allowing funding of Head Start at a level where all eligible children can receive the benefits of its proven track record.

We ask you to create corporate entities to build into their own child care program as an investment in their own employees' welfare.

We ask you to consider our opposition to vouchers by any name. We ask you to assist those of us charged with educating that spiraling population of students that themselves give birth to children, by creating significant programming designed to reduce dropout behavior among those students, including but not limited to, in-school child care education programs. We ask you to address supervision, licensure, training, and liability insurance issues. Finally, we ask you to create a small State minimum allocation, thus ensuring small population States like Nevada a chance to extend services under the act to high cost needy rural and urban areas.

While we have not yet seen the Congressional Budget Office figures with respect to State-by-State allocations, I worry when I see per capita income used to calculate entitlements such as those specified in section 5(b)(4). Our recent experience in this matter has left us very sensitive to protecting Nevada interests.

My time does not allow me to adequately address all the topics of child care, but there are two things that are for certain. If we want to make a difference in the lives of the next generation of Americans, we must begin now with quality early child education programs like that proposed in your bill.

Second, we in the Clark County School District also have a clear mandate from our community to play a productive role in developing quality educational programs for primary schoolchildren where it pays dividends in the long-range performance of our students.

Thank you.

PREPARED STATEMENT

Senator REID. Thank you, Dr. Wentz.

We will place your statement in full in the record.

[The statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF ROBERT E. WENTZ

For the record, I am Robert E. Wentz, Superintendent of the Clark County School District.

Senator Reid, I am pleased to have this opportunity to testify today on an issue that demonstrates excellent potential for turning the dead-end lives of the poor into a future of hope and opportunity. Your cosponsorship with Senator Dodd of the "Act for Better Child Care Services", (ABC) S 1885, along with Representative Kildee's companion legislation in the House (HR 3660), are the long awaited linkage allowing the poor to, in the words of Congressman Goodling, have an "even start" with their monied kindergarten counterparts.

Ironically, the strongest recent statement in support of developmental programs for preschool children emanated from a seemingly unlikely source... corporate America. The Committee for Economic Development's (CED) reports "Investing in our Children" and "Children in Need" are not just more glossy cover documents but forthright statements of commitment by the CEO's of the largest American corporations for returning America's competitive advantage... and you know where they said it must begin?

I quote:

> "We are convinced that the earliest stages of educational development, elementary school and preschool for disadvantaged children, are where we will receive the best return on our educational investment."

Their belief is not simply rhetoric for it is backed by strong research. Those findings are largely based on two studies that have surfaced during the past few years. The most significant of which is the Perry School Study from Ypsilanti, Michigan.

For nearly two decades Head Start children were followed to determine the influence of high quality early childhood education on their development and subsequent elementary and secondary school performance. The results were striking.

- . Reduction by 1/2 of the school dropouts
- . Reduction in delinquency and criminal involvement
- . Reduction in welfare dependency
- . Reduction in remedial education needs
- . Improved in overall school performance
- . Increased post-secondary school participation and employment.

The evidence of the benefit derived from high quality early childhood education programs is clear and apparent. This is particularly evident among poor children, and your bill is particularly sensitive to these children.

Along with this bill, at least five other bills have been introduced on child care. I trust this sort of initiative will bring to force the momentum needed to allow passage of significant legislation in short order.

I would be remiss if I failed to mention in my remaining time, my views concerning the necessary aspects of the legislation which need to be included to allow for maximum effectiveness. Most importantly, if we treat "child care" as daytime or nighttime "custodial care" and not as an absolutely wonderful opportunity to build it around a strong educational component, we will fail to break the bonds of poverty and give disadvantaged children an even start, or, in the words of Senator Kennedy, provide the "smart start" they deserve. Let me be more specific on some vital components presently contained in the legislation plus some components worthy of consideration as this legislation works its way through Congress.

- We ask you to designate education as the primary role of the program for recipient institutions and agencies.
- We ask you to allow for expansion of our soon to be operational early childhood education programs under the newly reauthorized Chapter 1 of the School Improvement Act.
- We ask you to provide for a linkage allowing funding of Head Start at a level where all eligible children can receive the benefits of its proven track record.
- We ask you to create corporate incentives to buy-in to their own child care/education program as an investment in their own employees' welfare.
- We ask you to consider our opposition to vouchers, by any name.
- We ask you to assist those of us charged with educating the spiraling population of students with children by creating significant programming designed to reduce dropout behavior among these students, including but not limited to, in-school child care/education programs.
- We ask you to address the supervision, licensure, training and liability insurance issues.
- Finally, we ask you to create a small state minimum allocation thus insuring small population states like Nevada a chance to extend services under the Act to high cost needy rural and urban areas. While we have not yet seen the CBO figures with respect to state by state allocations, I worry when I see per capita income used to calculate entitlements such as those specified in Section 5b4. Our recent experience in this matter has left us very sensitive to protecting Nevada interests.

As an aside, please allow me to publicly thank you for your leadership and strong statement on the floor of the Senate concerning the small state minimum provision of the recently passed nearly $4 billion School Improvement Act.

My time does not allow me to adequately address the topic of child care and all of its benefits, but I can assure you that you can count on two items to be true:

1. If we want to make a difference in the lives of the next generation of Americans - we must begin now with quality early childhood education programs like that proposed in your bill.

2. We in the Clark County School District also have a clear mandate from our community to play a productive role in developing a quality educational programs for primary school children for it pays dividends in the long range performance of our own students.

Senator Reid, I commend you for making child care a part of your agenda for the second session of the 100th Congress. We pledge our support to assist you in any manner. Thank you.

I am prepared to answer your questions.

Senator REID. Assemblyman Spinello.

STATEMENT OF JAMES SPINELLO

Mr. SPINELLO. Thank you, Senator.

I'm happy to be here to represent actions of the 1987 legislature and to explain to you some of the information we received in hearings much like this during the course of our deliberations.

The 1987 legislature increased allocations to ADC funding to allow an increase from $285 per month for a typical family with one parent and two children, to $325 a month in the first year of the biennium, which we are currently in, and $330 per month in the second year for families who are not living in subsidized housing. For those who are in subsidized housing, increasing from $285 to $300 per month.

We base this on average caseloads of 18,000, just under 19,000 for the first year, just over 20,000 for the second year.

To give you some idea of the increases that we had during the 1985–87 biennium, the budget was for 13,500 recipients. They actually had an average of 16,671. And because of that we had to do some juggling of funds to accomplish the ability to pay those.

We found that the major problem in trying to help people transition from welfare to self-sufficiency was the fact that many of the program supplements simply stopped at the time of employment. Most of the individuals who sought employment were only able to obtain either low pay jobs or jobs which did not provide any kind of insurance benefits. Jobs that did very often would not start the benefits for the first 90 days of employment. During that time many cases occurred where if the child or individual became ill, they had lost their Medicaid payments, plus lost time at work in order to take their child or themselves to seek medical attention.

The area of day care we found that the Federal regulations that currently limit Federal participation to $160 per month simply didn't meet the actual expenditures, as we heard several times today. We found the averages to be about $55 for those with elder children and higher than that for those with younger children or with infants. It simply was not enough. And the State, having made in the course of the 1987 legislature a 53-percent increase in outlays to ADC and representing about $10 million in the first year and $11 million of State general fund money to cover those needs, simply found itself strapped.

Assembly bill 130, which provided for increased opportunities for education and employent training, is a good program and a program which we will continue. However, we do need that help in providing those individuals with child care, both during the training, but more importantly, after employment.

The postassistance problem for both child care and I also think for health care, is an issue that has to be addressed. We have found in some instances where people are simply unable to obtain full-time jobs. They are only able to work 39 hours a week and are, therefore, unable to get into a benefit program in private employment or in the private sector. And that attention to those kinds of needs in the system has to be addressed.

It is often said, and said so often that it looks like a cliche, "Children are the future." But children live in the present and they are our obligation. And what we do for them in the present will largely determine the kind of future they are able to obtain. Thank you.

Senator Reid. Thank you Assemblyman Spinello.

Jean Childs, would you come up and take your seat with the panel.

Jean Childs is with the Clark County Head Start Program.

If you'd be kind enough to favor us with your comments regarding this issue.

STATEMENT OF JEAN CHILDS

Ms. Childs. I received the child care bill and I read it. Very interesting—because we primarily operate federally funded programs anyway. A lot of the issues with parent involvement we agree with, Head Start already operates like that.

The greatest concerns we've found in dealing with the families we do is one, the length of time that a lot of women need to become job-ready. A lot of job-ready programs expect a 9-week miracle and they often create a 9-week failure. An example is a young woman who did not finish high school. The year she went to high school she did not become literate, not because she couldn't, but just because within the system she failed the system, the system failed her. And then the expectation that she goes into a 9-week training, training schools that often provide training in spite of the person's ability to learn the training, graduate the person, send them out into the work world with day care costs that often exceed the amount she's going to earn. And then 1 month later, after she's had some Head Start day care and what have you, she cannot. One, her income will not support the day care; two, the skills will not support the job and in 3 months she's back on welfare. She's been counted by the manpower programs and some of the manpower welfare programs as a success because they only have to count 30 to 90 days. But she's right back in the system.

And I think we were talking about children, we have to talk about the children's parents. Parents take care of children. And while we are providing a lot of direct services to parents, we have to provide a lot of support services to children. The only time you're going to get a situation where day care is paid in order for a person to make it possible they no longer need you to pay that day care is to provide them with skills that actually turn into some money. I think with a lot of low income, particularly low-income minority women, we assume they will only make minimum wage. That's their only ability. And therefore, that's what we train them for. So we just keep them in the cycle.

I remember years ago under the Carter administration there was a manpower program called Concentrated Employment Program. I don't know if you remember that. And it was run by the agency that I presently work for.

We had the first dealer's school operated from Federal funds. It was very difficult to get the Federal Government to let us do that. They prefer we taught most of the women industrial sewing and something else. Anyway there were no jobs in that field but it felt better not to teach them to be in gaming because of the national feeling for gaming.

However, a dealer makes good money. So we wanted to teach people to do things that would produce a good income so they would not have to be back on welfare.

And I really like to—whatever it takes, I'm a single female head of household. I graduated from the university, and in spite of all the things that have happened in my life, I had that education so I could take care of my own family.

And working in the system, and I do, I'm paid by the taxpayer system, I pay for a lot of the people we work for because I would not want to be part of your system. Because it assumes I have nowhere to go, it feels sorry for me instead of helping me. I don't need your pity I need your help.

You tell me I have to succeed in 9 weeks. You tell me I can't read at a third-grade level and have to succeed in 9 weeks, get off your support, make $7 an hour so I can pay $140 in day care and I don't and I have failed again. And we are not being unreasonable.

I understand that the Government and other entities do not want to pay out a lot of money to train people. But if you don't pay it out, you won't have them trained and you'll never break the cycle.

So yes, we need more day care, but we need more care throughout the system if we truly want people to do better, get off the system and go their own way.

Thank you.

Senator REID. I've been especially impressed with this panel.

Lindsey, and I think we should acknowledge again the fact that study done by Lou Harris indicates the No. 1 problem that teachers feel exists with their students' inability to learn is they have no supervision at home.

Now, I don't know how everyone here feels, but I think it's very similar to myself, and I've said this numerous times, that but for my wife and myself, the most important people in the lives of my children have been their teachers.

And if the teachers are saying that the childrens' No. 1 problem with being able to learn is they don't have enough supervision, I think that's something we have to acknowledge.

Doctor Wentz, you have no quarrel with those statistics, or do you?

Dr. WENTZ. No; none whatsoever. They are accurate.

Senator REID. You mentioned Congressman Kildee and Senator Dodd being the initial sponsors of this legislation. I think it's interesting to note the wide range of support that is now being acknowledged for there having to be something done in this field.

Chris Dodd has no children. Kildee has lots of children. They come from totally different backgrounds. But yet, they both acknowledge the need for legislation in this regard.

Another thing that I want to bring out through this panel and reintroduce is something that Ruthie Bradford said right after the Governor testified. Ruthie Bradford said with her granddaughter or great granddaughter, they took this little kid to a day care facility, this little kid had never been to one. She was only there for an hour, as I recall, but she was so excited to be able to go there and she felt bad about having to leave.

I mention that because there's a stereotype in our society that these day care facilities are holding pens, that there's no joy or fulfillment for children there, that the kids would be better off alone.

Jean, do you have any comments in that regard? Are children better off unsupervised or in a day care center?

Ms. CHILDS. No; they are better off in a day care facility.

What you were talking about, the children being apprehensive and excited about coming, even those who don't want to stay the first day, you have some interesting stories about those. Of course children want to be some place where they feel safe, loved, and familiar. I think for most young children the familiar becomes very important.

I know in our Head Start Program we serve 400 some children a year.

One lady wanted to work with me one time because she said she had a bad back and she could sit and watch the children. I informed her being a preschool teacher was not a good place to have a bad back.

Our teachers are in constant training, CDA's, some have bachelor degrees, we have a curriculum that is culturally appropriate. And our children cook, they make things, they——

Senator REID. How old are the kids?

Ms. CHILDS. Three. They make sweet potato pies. They are interesting, but they make them.

It's not only academic but social skills. And they gain a feeling that they can succeed and accomplish things themselves. One of the most important things is to believe you can. And that's what preschools teach children. And being by yourself is frightening, you get in trouble. And if you have to leave a child by himself, I think most parents will agree you have to tell them all the things they can't do. In a preschool setting all the child experiences are the things he can do. And it makes a difference in his future life and future schooling.

Senator REID. That's a brilliant statement.

Dr. Wentz, I didn't want to get into a lot of technicalities with this hearing, but in that you have such great expertise dealing with Government programs, I wanted you to spend 1 minute on the voucher system in this bill. I'm having some trouble with that aspect of the bill.

Dr. WENTZ. We, too, frankly are. That's one aspect that concerns us. Once the foot is in the door then it just expands itself.

Clearly we are opposed to a voucher system. We feel there are mechanisms that are in place that, in fact, can respond effectively to the needs of children and families that do not have to utilize the voucher system.

Historically, the voucher system has gain for those more advantaged being well used and those less advantaged not as well used. And we don't want to see a mechanism. The very focus of this thing, as Jean talked about, are those that have the greatest need. And if we don't address those early, we are, in fact, not going to break the cycle that we are talking about. As indicated by Jean, the Head Start Program, which has had great success here and across the country, because it has that educational component. Unfortunately, we have children coming into kindergarten today that are already 2 years behind everybody else in the kindergarten.

I don't care what you do in the next several years, it's very difficult to break that cycle. And fill that gap.

The gap is filled the minute that child is born until he goes to school. And if there aren't mechanisms for those children and those families with the greatest need, then we are going to be here 20 years from now debating the same thing. And I believe the voucher is the mechanism to do that. That's why we emphasize that part of it needs to be looked at, again with the underscoring the tremendous importance on developmental activities. Not just custodial. And as indicated by a number of people already, the kind of care that Jean mentioned in terms of place that they are wanted, they are loved and they have activities that are going to develop them.

Senator REID. Dr. Wentz, I'd like to impose upon you that you and your staff, if you would take some time to submit to me in writing some of the alternatives you feel would be more appropriate than the voucher system, because I indicated I have some problem with that aspect of the bill.

Would you indicate for the committee the size of the Clark County School District in comparison of the rest of the school districts?

Dr. WENTZ. We exceeded the 100,000 mark this year, 100,057. Put that in perspective, 10 years from now we anticipate enrollment 157,000. We were 19th largest, I suspect we'll be about 17th largest. That's because we are a county system.

Where you need to focus, and again the bill about child care what we are talking about, the number of young people coming into kindergarten is double the number leaving 12th grade. The birth rate, if you go back 5 years, that number is 2,000 greater than the ones coming into kindergarten today.

So it is a dynamic community and one that has great potential. And certainly as we look at that potential, it is legislation that you are supporting that will assist us in the development of our community.

Senator REID. Dr. Wentz, also if the bill is as written, which they rarely are, there would be about $5 million minimum for Nevada at this stage. But I think the statement you make about small State minimum allowance is important.

Also, we have to be very careful about that anymore. Nevada used to be the smallest State in the Union populationwise. That's no longer the case, we are no longer there. I think we are in the thirties now rather than forties, so we are rapidly advancing.

Let me close by saying in this hearing we have tried to make it relate to personal aspects of child care. And certainly this panel has done an outstanding job. I appreciate your time and effort.

Part of the panel we were going to have Sylvia Bachoiochi from Catholic Community Services. I'm sure she's been involved in some difficulty with child care. She was going to render testimony supporting this bill. She represents the Nevada Catholic Community Services. And her testimony will be made part of the record. We were certainly interested in her, because she runs one of the six child care services in Nevada that offers at least part of its care on a sliding fee scale. So we'll direct more attention to that at a subsequent time.

STATEMENTS OF:

DR. AVI ALMEIDA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LATIN AMERICANS, INC.

FAYE DUNCAN DANIELS, PROFESSIONAL BLACK WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Senator Reid. The next panel will consist of Vernon Dixon of Intertribal Council of Nevada; Dr. Avi Almeida, executive director of Nevada Association of Latin Americans; and Faye Duncan Daniels, Professional Black Women's Alliance.

Would these three individuals please come forward.

Vernon is not here. He had to travel from the northern part of the State and obviously must have had transportation difficulties.

Dr. Avi Almeida, would you render the first testimony.

STATEMENT OF AVI ALMEIDA

Dr. Almeida. Senator, thank you very much for giving us this opportunity to testify. And also thank you for coming and visiting our youth program last night.

The Association of Latin Americans has been operating child care services since 1969. And each year we have seen more and more parents, especially single parents, asking for help. We are licensed for 124 children by the city of Las Vegas. At the moment we have as of today 149 children enrolled and 80 children on a waiting list.

Most of the parents come from the low- and moderate-income level, 78 percent of them are from poverty level. Our child center is located in one of the most, I will say, poor sections of the city.

For the last 2 years we were going before the city and county for funds to increase our child care facility to accommodate another 100 children. We can fill the child care with up to 250 children at any given time. Last year 9,300 babies were born in Clark County.

There is much more need for children from infant, and 1 year old. We cannot operate a child care because of the restrictions or abominable fees or premium fees charged by insurance companies. At this moment we have difficulty getting insurance and paying these high premiums.

We found fees range anywhere from $42 to $62. Our fees, we operate a child care on sliding scale, varies anywhere from zero, depending on the person, to up to $35. And it is not sufficient. I don't think it is sufficient to provide child care. It is also important we use the child care not only as babysitter, but also a curriculum so they become prepared to go to public school.

And we also have to provide nutrition for the children. Most of the children come to NALA only have one meal with us, and, therefore, we work as a child care we also work with the Department of Agriculture to get commodity food so we can provide at least breakfast, lunch, and a good snack before they go home in the evening. And we operate child care 12 hours a day, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. We can operate 24 hours but the regulations of the city do not allow us.

PREPARED STATEMENT

But there is a need. You have heard it over and over again, and we experience that need every day. And it's hard to say, when the parents do come to us, to say we don't have a place.

Thank you.

[The statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF AVI L. ALMEIDA

Since 1969 the Nevada Association of Latin Americans, Inc. [NALA], a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization in the State of Nevada, has been operating a child care/preschool and other social service programs for the economically disadvantaged people of southern Nevada.

NALA is licensed by the city of Las Vegas to operate child care services for 124 children. At the present time, there are 80 children on the waiting list. During the past 3 years, the need for child care has been on the increase especially for the people from the economically disadvantaged and ethnic minority background. Our waiting list has ranged from 50 to 150 children. Of the 149 children presently enrolled, 67 are of Hispanic origin, 48 are white, 26 are black, 4 are Indian, and 4 are of Asian origin. Sixty-three parents of the children are single head of households and 10 are single fathers trying to raise their children. Seventy-eight percent of them come from below poverty income level. The Hispanic people served by the agency has the highest unemployment rate in the community, 13.9 percent according to the figures provided by the Nevada Employment Security Department.

The Nevada Statistical Abstract 1983–84 states that 61 percent of the women in Clark County work outside the home. One child in four spends some part of their childhood in a single-parent family and 90 percent of these are headed by women. The results are that over 11 percent of our children under age 6 live below the poverty level. Again, according to the Nevada Statistical Abstract 1983–84, these children are the only group showing a significant increase in the poverty rate. The situation is worse for minority children.

A young child with full-time working parent(s) spends an average of 2,160 hours every year in a child care setting. The cost of licensed child care is often prohibitive for low- and low-middle income families. According to NALA's survey of 25 neighborhood preschools the fees ranged from $42 to $62 a week. Persons on minimum wage jobs find most of their take-home pay going to child care.

According to the Nevada Department of Taxation figures, Las Vegas alone had 217,360 residents in 1987, as compared to 201,500 in 1986, and Clark County had a total of 631,920 residents in 1987, 60 percent of the State population. In 1987 Las Vegas had 9,300 births. It is estimated that in each of the next 5 years approximately 9,100 children will be born in southern Nevada.

Because of this rapid growth in population and birth of children, an increasing demand is made on the providers of child care services. To complicate this ever increasing problem, the minority representation under the age of 18 increases steadily. The fertility rate for Hispanics, according to Mr. Larry Matheis, executive director, Clark County Coalition Health System Agency, is two times that of whites. The Census Bureau's report, "The Hispanic Population in the United States: March 1986 and 1987," published in September 1987 indicated that Hispanics, the second-largest minority in the United States, totaled 18.8 million in March 1987, an increase of 4.3 million since 1980. While the total population of the country was rising by 7.3 percent, the Hispanic population was growing by 30 percent between 1980 and 1987. While Hispanics now comprise 7.8 percent of the total U.S. population, the Census Bureau study forecast that this percentage will continue to rise, with Hispanics expected to account for 12 percent of the population by the year 2020. It is forecasted that the Hispanic population could double in 30 years and triple within 60 years. This same study found that 24.7 percent of Hispanic families were living below the poverty level last March. While this figure was only slightly higher than the 23.5 percent living in poverty in 1982, the total was almost three times the 9.9 percent poverty rate for non-Hispanic families.

Based on this national statistics and our own experience of providing child care for the Hispanic minority for the past 19 years, we strongly urge our elected Government officials not to overlook this forgotten segment of our community. By providing child care aid to single parents, we will enable them to be gainfully employed or better their chances of employment by acquiring necessary skills and training.

Senator REID. Faye Duncan Daniels, would you give your testimony.

STATEMENT OF FAYE DUNCAN DANIELS

Ms. DANIELS. Thank you.

I would like to thank you, Senator, for having this hearing.

My story is a personal story, but for programs. First, I'm the executive assistant manager of the Union Plaza Hotel. Had there not been programs in place, I still would be on welfare and still would be living in poverty. I was born in a very small town in Arkansas. In fact, so small we don't even refer to it as a town. Although I'd from a two-parent family, we were impoverished. My parents moved to Boston, MA, when we were young children. Had there not been educational programs in place and support programs in place, I would not be where I am today.

More importantly, I thought I was very, very smart and dropped out of high school at a very young age. I had to go back to high school. Thank God there were programs in place.

I got married and had a child. That child was born severely retarded and blind. Thank God, I was in Boston and there were programs in Boston in place to help me with that child.

As direct result of having programs in place to poor people when they need them—that is why we organize, especially Black Women's Alliance, was to encourage women to say, "Yes, I can overcome poverty and adversity." But when we tell them, yes you can to get them psyched up and ready to look for a job, we found out when they went to look for a job with the minimum wage, it's more convenient to stay home. It costs more money to go to work than it does to stay home. And that was one of the reasons I'm here today.

We do need subsidized child care for all working mothers. We need programs in place to help all American citizens achieve their goals and become productive, rather than stay on the system.

Because there were programs in place when I needed them, I'm a successful business woman. But for that I'd be on welfare and God knows where.

Thank you for listening.

Senator REID. Doctor, it's my understanding that you've received numerous phone calls at your facility from women who are pregnant, asking if they could reserve a space?

Dr. ALMEIDA. That's true.

Senator REID. And most of the time you have to tell them the answer is no?

Dr. ALMEIDA. Most of the time the child is 2 years old, we tell them to put the name of the child on the waiting list.

Senator REID. And many people aren't on the waiting list because they recognize it's such a long list?

Dr. ALMEIDA. That's true. As of today we have 80 people on the waiting list. Last Monday it was 150.

On top of that we are serving mostly the Spanish community. The poverty in that community is 13.9 percent, according to Nevada Security Department figures. And most of our people are Hispanic. And the plight of the Hispanic in the community is worse than other members of the community.

Senator REID. Are you telling this committee that in Clark County the poverty rate among Hispanics is over 13 percent?

Dr. ALMEIDA. 13.9.

Senator REID. Almost 14 percent?

Dr. ALMEIDA. Almost 14 percent.

Senator REID. Doctor, you were present last evening when I spent some time at your facility with these young people who were gang members and ex-gang members, is that not true?

Dr. ALMEIDA. Yes; it is.

Senator REID. As you recall last night, after having listened to these young men and women talk to me about their personal experiences, one had his father poisoned and another had been beaten up so many times, he couldn't tell walking through his own neighborhood, the prostitution and the drugs and alcoholism with 14-year-old children, some of them.

You recall my having made reference to the fact that the question I presented to these young people, that you would have been—you would not have gotten in trouble had you had supervision, had someone taken care of you. And without exception they all said, "That's right."

Dr. ALMEIDA. That's what's happening to children in preschool, they are left alone. That behavior continues on and that's when we have the youth problem, which they are already fallen by the wayside by then. They are because they have not had supervision right from the beginning.

Senator REID. Doctor, you also recall the one young man who had been in gangs since he was 10 years old, who is now 19 or 20. Do you recall his having stated that once you get in a gang, if you have no family support you're there forever?

Dr. ALMEIDA. It's very difficult to break off. The problem with youth, by using other peer pressure and using other youths to try to get them off the system, but it's very difficult.

Senator REID. You also recall this young man stating that one-half his friends that he grew up with are in prison?

Dr. ALMEIDA. Yes; and the other one-half we are trying to get them back to our program because we are using this young man as a model for other youths to come back and be with us.

Senator REID. Doctor Almeida and Faye, your testimony is excellent.

Faye, we mentioned to another panelist here before, it's not easy, a successful business person as you are, coming here and having this testimony taken forever, recognizing at one time you may not have been a success. And I think that's important. And I certainly appreciate your having the courage to come forward and having you understand that you haven't always been a success.

Ms. DANIELS. Thank you.

STATEMENTS OF:

ISABEL PFEIFER, PRESIDENT, HISPANIC BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

ANITA LARUY, VICE CHAIRMAN, NEVADA WOMEN'S POLITICAL CAUCUS

DIANE E. WILLIAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY CHILD CARE SERVICES

SANDRA WRIGHT, TREASURER, COMMERCIAL CHILD CARE ALLIANCE OF NEVADA

CONNIE MORMON, CLARK COUNTY CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

PREPARED STATEMENTS

Senator REID. The final panel today will be Isabel Pfeifer, Hispanic Business and Professional Women's Association; Anita Laruy, Nevada Women's Political Caucus; Connie Mormon, Clark County Child Care Association; Diana Williams, Community Child Care Services; Sandra Wright, commercial child care providar.

I asked the court reporter, Tom Mercer, after 2 hours of this if he's tired, and he said no, he's just getting warmed up.

First, we will place all the submitted statements in full from this panel in the record.

[The statements follow:]

STATEMENT OF ISABEL PERERA-PFEIFER

I, Isabel Perera-Pfeifer, residing at 3167 East Paintedhills Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, on behalf of:

1) The Hispanic Business and Professional Women's Club of Las Vegas, Nevada (H-BPW), as its President;

2) The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Council #11081, as its Secretary;

3) and myself, a U.S. citizen, and a registered Republican, respectfully submit the following comments on Senate Bill S.1885 introduced to the 100th Congress by the Honorable Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, and co-signed, among others, by the Honorable Senator Harry Reid from the State of Nevada.

BACKGROUND

The H-BPW, at its organizational meeting held on July 31st, 1987, recognized as one of its primary concerns, the lack of adequate child care facilities available in the city of Las Vegas, for low and medium income families or single parents, and resolved to work through the legislative process to attain the enactment of legislation which would remedy this situation.

LULAC Council #11081, concerned about the high drop-out rate of Hispanics from high schools, also addressed the lack of opportunities available to parents to provide adequate child care to their youngsters resulting in children growing up by themselves and not having the guidance to make them useful and productive citizens. It also resolved to address this issue through the elected State officials.

It is our understanding that 63 percent of all women with children under the age of 14 are in the labor force, and 52 percent of such women have children under the age of 6.

It is also understood that of all the women in the labor force, two-thirds become employed due to economic necessity, either because they are the head of a household, or because they have a spouse that earns less than $15,000 per year.

It is further recognized that inadequate child care facilities undermine the possibility of women developing to its fullest their career potentials, and that this fact can have a significant impact in this nation's economic growth

CONCERNS

In reviewing the proposed legislation, we found no reference to:

a) High Cost of Liability Insurance

There is no provision in this bill to facilitate the obtaining of adequate liability insurance, which necessesarily drives high the cost of child care.

In Las Vegas the average cost of child care is $50 to $60 per week, per child, or $2,600 to $3,100 per year, per child. A working mother with two children would pay $5,000 to $6,000 for child care alone. The conclusion is obvious: if the mother is the sole support, either she goes on welfare or the children are left to fend for themselves. In other states, like Maryland, the cost goes up to $80 to $120 per week, per child.

2) Private Sector Involvement

We would like to see some provision in this legislation for a partnership between the public and the private sector. We are specifically addressing the possibility of corporations being able to set up child care facilities for their employees and somehow participate on a cost sharing program with the state agencies that will regulate these activities.

3) Data Collection

A procedure called for under Sec 7. C).14, to collect data on child care being provided by the State, is designed to show the race, sex, and ethnic origin of the child. It appears to us unnecessary and divisive. A child is a child, and neither the race, the sex, nor the ethnic origin should have a bearing on the care that child is receiving.

On a happier note, we are pleased to se provision under Sec 7.C).11 ensuring that child care is available to parents working nontraditional hours, such as evenings and weekends. In a 24 hour town like Las Vegas this is a must.

CONCLUSIONS

With the reservations expressed, we categorically support the Federal Program for the improvement of child care, as submitted in Senate Bill No. S.1885. It is high time we look inside our borders and try to solve our own domestic problems. Other countries, like Costa Rica, last year introduced similar legislation for the care of their children.

We pledged to seek the support of other state and national offices, LULAC's and BPW's, to obtain the support of their members in favor of this legislation.

We will introduce a Resolution at the next State of Nevada BPW Convention to endorse the efforts of Senator Harry Reid on behalf of the children of Nevada and the nation.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF ANITA LARUY

My name is Anita Laruy. I am Vice-Chair of the Nevada Women's Political Caucus and Chair of the Southern Nevada Women's Political Caucus.

The Women's Political Caucus has always advocated for access to adequate and affordable day care services, as illustrated by the following resolutions that have been adopted at national conventions:

- In 1973 - "It is the goal of the National Women's Political Caucus to promote the development of a parent and community controlled, publically supported, 24-hour child development program to be available to all children, ages birth to 18 years."

- In 1975 - "The National Women's Political Caucus advocates federal money for child care programs and urges every state Caucus to establish a permanent standing committee on child care."

- In 1981 - "The National Women's Political Caucus encourages members to join with others in their communities to encourage development of employer-sponsored child care; and supports legislation to develop employer-sponsored child care programs."

Nationally, the following facts have been established:

1) Mothers are increasing their labor force participation Half of all married mothers with infants under age one, are in the labor force - a 108 percent increase since 1970. Mothers work out of economic necessity. In Nevada, as of December 1987, there were 54.13% of working mothers with children under 6 years of age, and 71.13% of working mothers with children 6 to 17 years of age.

2) Child care is an essential factor to enable a family to maintain its income level. However, many families do not earn enough to pay for decent child care. Child care costs are high, averaging $3,000 a year, per child, which equals to one-third of the annual poverty level income for a family of three.

3) Child care is the key to the parents' ability to work or to work longer hours.

4) When child care help is provided, families can begin to move out of poverty.

As the number of children with working mothers has grown, there has been no corresponding increase in our nation's commitment to quality child care. The day care needs of millions of working parents, especially those of low and moderate incomes, are being largely neglected by federal, state and local governments, as well as by private employers.

Many women in Nevada are facing the same problems concerning this issue as are those in the rest of the nation. Our problem is compounded since many women are employed in service industries and must work either swing or graveyard shifts. Locally, they have voiced the following concerns;

1) There are not enough child care facilities

2) Child care costs are astronomical and sometimes unaffordable

3) Some child care facilities are poorly supervised and/or overcrowded, and they fear for their children's safety

While this problem cuts across all economic levels, the members of low and moderate income groups are the most adversely affected. The time has come to make available child care services that are safe, well-supervised, and affordable to all who need them.

The existing federal support for child care, which comes via Title XX Social Services Block Grants and the federal tax credits, is not enough and is merely scratching the surface. The "Act for Better Child Care Services" is a major step in alleviating this problem, which will soon reach critical proportions. The time is now. We must take good care of our children in order to insure the future leaders of tomorrow.

The Nevada Women's Political Caucus supports S.1885 and is very pleased that our distinguished Sen. Harry Reid has co-sponsored this bill.

STATEMENT OF SANDRA WRIGHT

The Commercial Child Care Alliance of Nevada is an organization made up of owners of commercial "for-profit" child care centers. We agree with many of the findings of the "Act for Better Child Care Services of 1987". We also agree with the intent of the Bill to enable low income families to afford quality child care; however, as commercial child care center owners we are concerned about the "ABC Bill" because we have more to loose than anyone else providing child care services.

The definition of "Eligible Provider" described in the Act on page 7 states any facility "which meets . . . standards set forth in this Act"; yet some areas of the Bill specify "non-profit" as a part of eligibility. We urge supporters of this Bill to include commercial "for-profit" child care centers along with other categories of eligible providers. By including commercial child care as an option for low income families, they are not limited in their choice and their needs can be better served, and the integration of low income families into the mainstream of society can be better served.

We question the exclusion of "for-profit" centers from several sections of the Bill where "family home care" is specificaly included (pages 19, 20 and 30). Family home care is "for-profit" child care. The term "non-profit" is misleading. Many "non-profit" centers do not operate on a sliding scale for tuition charges and do make a profit in the child care operation.

As a result of the survey taken by the Clark County Child Care Association listing available spaces for children in Las Vegas, we would suggest that a needs assessment be done in each state and local area in order to determine if additional child care programs are needed before making grants available for additional centers. If adequate space is already available in child care perhaps a greater portion of funds can be spent in direct aid to families.

As commercial child care owners we are concerned about quality child care. In today's competative market we must offer qualiity child care if we are to stay in business. Improving the quality of child care as described in the "ABC Bill" is costly, and eventhough we may agree with these findings, we also see the need to keep the cost of child care afordable for working parents.

The "certificate" system described in the Bill is the best way of distributing funds to low income families to use for child care. We agree with this system because we feel it is best to support the family rather than the institution. However, we are concerned about the cost of this program and the possible duplication of services. Within Clark County the licensing and regulatory boards are working to improve and enforce child care regulations.

We, the members of the Commercial Child Care Alliance of Nevada, respectfully submit these comments for your thoughtful consideration.

STATEMENT OF DIANE E. WILLIAMS

My name is Diane E. Williams. I am the Executive Director of Community Child Care Services in Reno, Nevada. Community Child Care Services is a private, non-profit child care center which provides affordable, quality child care for primarily low income families. We care for 9 one-two year old children and 35 2-5 year old children. Fees are on a sliding fee scale based on each family's monthly net income. We are the only program which gives priority to low income families and are the only center offering toddler care on a sliding fee scale.

SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

The majority of our parents are single women with more than one child to support. According to the 1986 report of "Poverty in Nevada", women are more likely to be poor than men. Poverty among female heads of family and their children is a problem of great magnitude and severity. The number of families is increasing in Nevada. It is, therefore, probable that the rate of poverty will increase simply as a result of demographic change. Over 50% of families with children below the poverty level are headed by women. The problems are especially severe for female heads of families with children under 6 years old. In Nevada, poor children live disproportionately in families headed by single women. Nearly one fourth of the entire poverty population of Nevada lives in Female Headed families. The highest rate of poverty is found among female family heads under 25 years old.

REASONS FOR HIGH POVERTY LEVELS WITH FEMALE FAMILY HEADS

Nationally, Female family Heads are far less likely to be employed full time. Overall there is an extremely heavy concentration of low income female heads of fmaily in the service sector.

POVERTY AND YOUNG CHILDREN

I think we'll all agree that every child deserves to grow up healthy, with adequate food, clothing. shelter, heat and medical care. Ideally, childhood should be a time of exploration, growth, and joy with the security of knowing that however financially pressed they are, parents can put food on the table and a roof over their heads. Nationally we are failing to to provide this most basic security to America's children. According the the Children's Defense Fund's 1988 Budget, in 1985 more than 12 million children-more than 1 in every 5 children - lived in families with incomes below the poverty line which was, incedentally, $8,573 annually for a family of 3 in 1985. The child poverty rate is higher than any time since the early 1960's.
In Nevada, in 1980 children under 6 were second to seniors in being the highest percentage of population in the poverty level. Nearly one of every 3 persons in poverty in Nevada is a child under 18 years old. Poverty among Nevada's children tends to be concentrated among very young children.

WHY ARE CHILDREN POOR?

Children are poor because:
- of persistently high joblessness among parents
- many parents who are working cannot earn high enough wages to escape poverty

- of changing family demographics, including the growth in the number of female headed households
- because the federal safety net has been shredded. Since 1981 the Regan Administration cut $10 billion dollars annualy from National survival programs for poor families and children.

AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE IN RENO

Due to an increase in single parents and in the number of two parent families in which both mother and father are employed, the the availablity, quality and affordability of chlid care has become tremendously important to a growing number of families. Many families simply cannot afford adequate child care. The average cost of full time care in Reno ranges from $20-100 per week for infants, preschoolers and toddlers. The average cost is $56 - 80 per week. Most low income families enrolled in CCCS earn less than $800 per month and pay $36.50 to $42.00 for preschool and toddler care. CCCS has a growing waiting list of over 200 families needing immediate care. Compared to the availability of child care in Reno, it is my experience that child care is available, but simply is not affodable to low income families.

AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE SOLUTION TO HELPING PARENTS BECOME SELF SUFFICIENT.

the primary factor keeping women and children in poverty is the lack of affordable child care. As the number of chldren with working mothers has grown, there has been no corresponding increase in our society's committment to affordable and quality child care. To build an adequate child care system in this country, we need a much stronger private, federal and state partnership. Such a system would benefit children, parents and society.

CONTINUED AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE ESSENTIAL FOR SELF SUFFICIENT FAMILIES.

At CCCS we have witnessed an alarming number of families who have finally gotten enrolled in to the program, after waiting for 6-8 months on the waiting list, have to drop out of the program because they simply cannot afford to work. The expenses of working, i.e. clothing, transportation, child care, etc. force these families back on the welfare system. Generally, these are families earning minimum wage with minimal work skills._ We have also seen a homeless 2 parent family with four children, 5,4,3, and 20 months old, become a crisis situation. With no permanent housing, the parents staying in separate housing shelters, the mother walked the streets in the day with the four children, while the father tried to work. This was really high burn out for the mother, on cold, windy Reno streets, with four young children. Eventually she personnally broke down, unable to care for the children, leaving them with the father. Dad had to miss work for several days and when we finally encountered the family, was close to losing his job. The children were left CCCS for drop-in respite care for the prevention of abuse or neglect. They were terrified, insecure, emotionally and physically exhausted. Victims of the parents' circumstances. Had there been child care available for this family, the father could have continued to work, and the mother could seek a job. The children would have been left in a warm, secure, nurturing environment where they would receive individual attention and emotional support. As it turned out, the family has been seen on the street and probably is a case with the Department of Social Services. This was, incedentally, a considered an option for the father at this point...then he expressed, maybe we could get some help.

IMPORTANCE OF QUALITY CHILD CARE

Once last item I would like to address is the importance of QUALITY child care. I see lots of attention focused on the need for affordable child care and secondary the recognition of WHAT KIND OF AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE? In Reno there are many centers with available spaces. I think this is a result primarily to the affordablity issue, however, the quality issue must be considered a factor in some centers. As in the family mentioned above, children need to be given individual attention, personal recognition, hugs, and support from understanding adults who know them. We must move away from the idea that child care is another word for warehousing children. Quality child care includes a preschool component where children are learning, exploring, playing in an environment that encourages growth to their maximum potential. From birth to six years old are the critical years when a child gains his/her personality. These are the years they need to learn what valuable people they are. The responsibility of building a high self esteem, concern for others and appropriate social skills in these young children is being placed on the teachers in an environment for an average of ten hours a day. A quality child care environment is only as good as the teachers. Caring for groups of children in a child care environment is very different from caring for one or two children in a home environment. Teachers need to be trained and educated in early childhood development to become skilled preschool teachers of young children. To keep quality teachers, adequate wages and benefits must be paid. Preschool teachers are currently among the lowest paid workers. Preschool teachers are sacrificing their incomes to make it possible for parents work, who incedently, usually earn wages above what they are earning. Parents cannot afford what it actually costs to provide quality care for their children. Inadequate child care provider wages and skills all but ensure inadequate child care.

THE INVESTMENT IN QUALITY CHILD CARE WILL BENEFIT INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN AND SOCIETY AS A WHOLE

Through a 20 year follow up research program was found that quality preschool programs helped children once they were in school and had an impact on them for many years. Compared to peers without a similar experience, preschool children were much more likely to graduate from high school. Children with preschool education did better on standardized tests in reading, language, math, and were more likely to go on to vocational or academic training after high school. This study also found that advantages gained by preschoolers continued into adulthood. They were more likely to to be working hard and satisfied with their jobs, they spend more time employed after graduation and have better paying jobs than non-preschool attendees. Preschool should not be viewed as something separate from and apart from child care, because, in reality, high quality, full time child care programs contain the elements of a good preschool program. These elements include:

* Staff with education, training and experience working with young children
* Low adult/child ratios and small group size
* Elegibility guidelines which guard against labeling children
* Parent involvement in planning and operation
* Sensitivity to cultural and ethnic differences
* The use of age appropriate curricula

Many states have recognized the benefits of quality child care and have alloted funds for program s serving primarily low income children. Currently, Nevada has no state dollars specifically for low income children in child care. For each $1.00 invested in quality childcare, there is a $7.00 return from children who avoid juvenile delinquecy, obtain jobs, and become productive, tax paying citizens to this community.

NEVADA RESTRICTIONS TO RECEIVING ABC FUNDS

In closing, I would recommend the consideration of Nevada's position to receive funds from the Act for Better Child Care. While the quality programs in the state are following the guidelines in the Act, unfortunately many others still do not. The Act requires ALL CENTERS to conform to these guidelines VS funding individual centers. I think if monies became available for providing quality programs, more programs would improve benefiting more children and families. This would also help resolve the lack of affordable, quality child care. Quality individual centers should have access to the available funds to provide role models for other child care providers.

STATEMENT OF CONNIE MORMON

On behalf of the Clark County Child Care Association, I, Connie Mormon represent the Commercial members Leanne Thompson represents the Family-Group Care Homes. We are both long time members of the Association which was founded in October 1957. The Association is made up of Commercial, Churches, Group Care and Family Care Homes.

SURVEY OF OPENINGS FOR CHILD CARE IN CLARK COUNTY
DURING WEEK OF FEBRUARY FIFTH - 1988

TYPE OF FACILITY	NUM.	INF.	TOD.	PRE.	B/A	NIGHTS
Family Care Homes-	221	20	87	139	70	30
Group Care Homes -	31	16	33	11	1	20
Commercial -	79	67	145	61	156	50
Church -	17	0	32	190	11	NA
TOTALS	348	103	297	957	238	100

(Due to the recent enforcement of stringent Life-Safety Requirements which are expensive, two Group Care Homes have cut back to six children and two are closing. Possibly more will either cut back or close in the future.)

ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS:

The State has a good system set up in the Welfare Department for distribution of funds to low income people which would eliminate duplication of agencies.

TELEPHONE REFERRAL SERVICE:

Our Association has a telephone referral system in operation for over 25 years. We handle approximately 25 calls a day, 7 days a week. We refer to our 160 association members, other licensed providers, to the county social service and city child care business license office, and give general information to the public.

Telephone services, yellow pages and newspaper advertising expense is a major part of our budget paid for by Association dues.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

We keep our members and various officials apprised of what is occurring in the field of child care with our monthly newsletter. Copying machines, computers and typewriters are our major expenses in providing this newsletter.

MONTHLY MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS:

We have monthly meetings and make available to all licensed caregivers one class hour workshops (free to our members) and recently have sponsored a three hour Infant-Toddler workshop which was attended by 89 providers.

There is a need for some type of program to be instituted to encourage the owners of child care centers to pay for their employees workshop fees.

CLASS HOURS REQUIRED

There should be a list of mandatory classes for the particular age group that the provider and employee are working, i.e., human growth and development, etc. At present, three class hours are required per year for each provider or employee. There is no provision for recognition of provider's who have taken credit hour courses (which take a semester to complete) or have completed an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education at the college level. These persons should be required to take less class hours refresher courses each year.

If more clock hours are required they should be increased by increments of three over a four year period.

RECOMMENDATION:

That local licensing entities should have adequate funding in order to provide workshops required.

REGULATIONS:

State regulations are presently patterned after Federal Regulations for child care.

City and County regulations are more stringent.

LOCAL LICENSING ENTITIES REGULATIONS DIFFER:

This causes a great deal of confusion among providers. These inequities should be resolved in the best interest of the children. As it is now, there are three different agencies with three differing sets of regulations.

Anyone caring for one or more children in the State of Nevada should be required to be licensed. This would ensure the safety and protection of one child or one hundred. Parents should be educated in the perils of unlicensed child care.

We feel like metropolitan areas have different problems. That counties of over 450,000 population should be regulated by one agency in each metropolitan area which can devote their full time to the field of child care. There is now an agency set-up in each county that is capable of administrating such a program.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS:

City, County and State fire regulations are all interpreted differently to some degree by the inspectors. This leads to much confusion among providers.

ESTABLISHING FAMILY CARE HOME IN LOW INCOME AREAS

The amount of loan should be $3,000.00 instead of $1,500.00 in order to meet the costs of fencing, fireproofing, fire extinguishers, special furniture, teaching aids, toys and possibly a sprinkler system throughout the house.

FAMILY CARE HOME IN MEDIAN INCOME AREAS

If a fire sprinkler system is required throughout the house then their loan should be the same as above.

CHILD CARE RATES IN SOUTHERN NEVADA

Commercial establishments charge approximately $37.50 a week in low income areas. They scale up according to age to appoximately $75.00 a week. Providers in low income areas have to pay their employees the same as the establishments located in the median income areas.

GROUP CARE AND FAMILY CARE HOME RATES:

Range in price from $45.00 to $75.00 a week, depending on the ages of the children. With many of the parents being employed in the tourist industry their incomes are fluctuating, i.e., tips and employment.

MINIMUM WAGE PREVAILS FOR CHILD CARE EMPLOYEES:

In many centers long term employees are being paid a few cents above minimum wage and rarely receive any benefits.

As soon as they get educated they move on to other fields of employment where they can earn a living to support themselves.

RATIO:

The ratio of providers to children should stay as it is in the State of Nevada.

SECTARIAN PURPOSES OR ACTIVITIES

Many parents choose to put their children in a religious oriented child care facility. They feel they will be given a solid basic belief which will enable them to cope with the problems of life. Are the words "In God We Trust" printed on some of our coins, meaningless? These child care facilities should not be exempt from funding as long as they teach "religion generally" and not "specifically".

COMPLAINTS:

A system has been set up for employee and parent complaints, but none for the caregiver who would like to report a parent for non-payment, "suit happy", or who removes a child without notice from a facility when they are questioned about bruises on a child.

UNLICENSED PROVIDERS:

Funding is needed to enable licensing agencies to investigate and prosecute unlicensed persons caring for one or more children.

LIABILITY INSURANCE:

Some type of program should be set up to regulate liability insurance with liability protection and not a myriad of exclusions attached to the policy.

CLOSING STATEMENT:

We, the members of the Clark County Child Care Association of the State of Nevada, respectfully submit these comments of our members for your thoughtful consideration.

Enclosures: Las Vegas City Child Care Regulations
Clark County Child Care Regulations
State of Nevada Child Care Regulations
Survey Sheets of Openings for Child Care

Senator Reid. Could we hear first from Isabel Pfeifer.

STATEMENT OF ISABEL PFEIFER

Ms. Pfeifer. Thank you, Senator.

My name is Isabel Pfeifer. I reside at 3167 East Paintedhills, Las Vegas, NV, and I'm testifying on behalf of the Hispanic Business and Professional Women's Club of Las Vegas, NV, as its president, and the League of United Latin American Citizens, council No. 11081, as its secretary.

Myself, as a U.S. citizen and registered Republican, I respectfully submit the following comments on Senate bill 1885 introduced by Senator Christopher Dodd and cosigned by the Honorable Senator Harry Reid from the State of Nevada.

I'll give you some background. The Hispanic Business and Professional Women's Club, when it had its organizational meeting last July 31, we recognized one of the primary concerns for the working women was the lack of adequate child care facilities in the city of Las Vegas for low- and medium-income families or single families, and resolved to work through the legislative process to obtain the enactment of legislation which would remedy this situation.

The Lulac Council 1181, concerned about the high dropout rate of Hispanics from high schools, also addressed the lack of opportunities available to parents to provide adequate child care resulting in children growing up by themselves and not having the guidance to make them useful and productive citizens.

The Lulac council also resolved to address the issue through the legislature.

It's our understanding that 63 percent of all women with children under the age of 14 are in the labor force and 52 percent of such women have children under the age of 6.

We also understand that of all the women in the labor force, two-thirds become employed due to economic necessity, either because they are head of a household or because they have a spouse that earns less than $15,000 per year.

We further recognize that inadequate child care facilities undermine the possibility of women developing to their fullest their career potentials, and this can have a significant impact on this Nation's economic growth.

I'll go over some of our concerns specifically on this bill.

When we reviewed the proposed legislation we found no reference to the high cost of liability insurance. There's no provision to facilitate the obtaining of adequate liability insurance, which necessarily is one of the underlying causes in the high cost of child care.

In Las Vegas the average cost of child care, this is our own survey, is about $50 to $60 per week, per child. And we have heard these figures repeated over and over. Or $2,600 to $3,100 per year per child. A working mother with two children would pay $5,000 to $6,000 for child care alone. The conclusion is obvious. If the mother is the sole support either she goes on welfare or the children are left to fend for themselves. In other States like Maryland the cost goes up to $83 per week per child.

Another of our concerns in reference to this bill, and Lieutenant Governor Miller mentioned this, we would like to see some more involvement of the private sector.

It would be nice if we have some provisions in this legislation for a partnership between the public and private sector. We are specifically addressing the possibility of corporations being able to set up child care facilities for their employees and somehow participate with State agencies that will regulate these activities.

Another item of concern was in the data collection, under section 7(c)(14). It specifies there would be data collection on child care provided by the State, and is designed to show race, sex, and ethnic origin of a child.

It appears to us this is unnecessary and divisive. A child is a child and neither the race, the sex, nor ethnic origin should have a bearing on the care that child receives.

On a happier note, another provision insures child care would be available to parents working nontraditional hours, evenings, and weekends.

Can I finish? Just a couple sentences.

Our conclusions, with the reservations we have expressed, we categorically support the program for the improvement of child care as submitted in this bill.

Thank you, Senator Reid.

Senator REID. Could we hear now from Anita Laruy.

STATEMENT OF ANITA LARUY

Mrs. LARUY. Sure.

Good morning, Senator, or good afternoon. My name is Anita Laruy, a vice chair of the Nevada Women's Political Caucus and chair of the newly formed Southern Nevada Women's Political Caucus.

The Women's Political Caucus has always advocated for access to adequate and affordable day care service, as illustrated by the following resolutions that have been adopted at national conventions.

In 1973—it is the goal of the National Women's Political Caucus to promote the development of a parent and community controlled, public supported, 24-hour child development program to be available to all children ages birth to 19 years.

In 1975, the National Political Women's Caucus advocates Federal money for child care programs and urges every State caucus to establish a permanent standing committee on child care.

In 1981, the Nevada Women's Caucus encourages women to join with others in their communities to encourage development of employer-sponsored child care and supports legislation to develop employer-sponsored child care programs.

Nationally, the following facts have been established. One, mothers are increasing their labor force participation. One-half of all married mothers with infants under age 1 are in the labor force, a 108-percent increase since 1970. Mothers work out of economic necessity, they have to work.

In Nevada as of December 1987, there were 54.13 percent of working mothers with children under 6 years of age and 71.13 percent of working mothers with children 6 to 17 years of age.

Child care is an essential factor to enable a family to maintain its income. However, many families do not earn enough to pay for decent child care. Child care costs are high, averaging about $3,000 a year per child, which equals one-third of the annual poverty level income for a family of three.

Child care is the key to the parents' ability to work or work longer hours. When child care help is provided, families begin to move out of poverty.

As the number of children with working mothers has grown, there's been no corresponding increase in our Nation's commitment to quality child care. The day care needs of millions of working parents, especially of those working moderate incomes and minority members are being largely neglected by Federal, State, and local governments as well as by private employers.

Many women in Nevada are facing the same problems concerning this issue as are those in the rest of the Nation.

Our problem is compounded since many women are employed in service industries and must work either swing or graveyard shifts. Locally they have voiced the following concerns: not enough facilities, costs are astronomical and sometimes unaffordable. Some facilities are poorly supervised and overcrowded and they fear for their children's safety.

While this problem cuts across all economic levels, the members of low- and moderate-income groups are the most adversely affected. The time has come to make available child care services that are safe, well supervised, and affordable to all who need them.

The existing Federal support for child care, which comes via title XX and Federal tax credits, is not enough and is merely scratching the surface. Better child care services is a major step in alleviating this problem, which will soon reach critical proportions if it's not dealt with. The time is now. We must take good care of our children in order to ensure the future leaders of tomorrow.

The Nevada Women's Political Caucus supports this bill and is pleased that our Senator has cosponsored this bill.

Senator REID. We'll now hear from Connie Mormon.

STATEMENT OF CONNIE MORMON

Ms. MORMON. On behalf of the Clark County Child Care Association, founded in October 1957, the association is comprised of commercial, churches, group care, and family day care homes.

Surveys of opinions in Clark County during February 5, 1988. As of February 5 there are 348 licensed facilities, 103 openings for infants, 297 openings for toddlers, 957 openings for preschool, 237 openings for before and after school, and 100 opening for night care.

Due to the recent enforcement of life-safety requirements which are expected, two homes have cut back to six children and two are closing. More will either cut back or close in the future.

Administration of funds. State welfare department system is adequate for the distribution of funds to low-income family which eliminates duplication of agencies. Telephone referral service. Association has had a telephone referral system in operation for over 25 years and doing approximately 25 calls a day, 7 days a week, referring to our 160 association members, other licensed providers, city child care business license office, and general information to the public.

Telephone referral services: Yellow pages, newspaper advertising, expense is a major part of our budget, paid for by the association dues.

Monthly newsletter. Our members and various officials are kept prised what is occurring in the field of child care with our monthly newsletters. Copy machines, computers, typewriters are a major expense in providing this newsletter.

Monthly meetings and workshops. We have monthly meetings and make available to all licensed care givers one class hour workshops free to our members and recently sponsored a 3-hour infant-toddler workshop attended by 89 providers.

There's need of a program to be instituted to encourage the owners of child care centers to pay for their employees' workshop fees. There should be a list of mandatory classes for the particular age group that the providers and employers are working for human growth and child development, et cetera.

At present 3 class hours are required per year for each provider or employee. There's no provision for recognition of providers who have taken credit hours, courses for classes which take a semester to complete, or have an associate degree in early childhood education at the college level. These persons should be required to take less class hours refresher courses each year.

If more clock hours are required they should be increased by increments of 3 hours over a 1 year period.

Recommendation: That the local licensing entities should have adequate funding in order to provide workshops required.

Regulations: State regulations are presently patterned after Federal regulations for child care. City and county regulations are more stringent. Local licensing entities differ. This causes a great deal of confusion amongst providers.

These inequities should be resolved in the best interest of the children. As it is, there are three separate agencies with three different sets of regulations.

Anyone caring for one or more children in the State should be required to be licensed. This would insure the safety of 1 or 100 children.

Parents should be educated in the perils of unlicensed child care.

We feel metropolitan areas have different problems. Counties of over 450,000 should be regulated by one agency in each major metropolitan area, which can devote their full time to the field of child care. There's now an agency set up in each county that is capable of administering such a program.

Fire department regulations: State regulations are all interpreted differently. This leads to much confusion among providers.

Establishing family care home in low-income areas: The amount of loans should be $3,000 instead of $1,500, in order to meet the costs of fencing, fireproofing, fire extinguishers, special furniture, teaching aids, toys, and possibly a sprinkler system throughout the home.

Family care home in median-income areas: If a fire sprinkler is required throughout the house, their loan should be the same as above.

Child care rates in southern Nevada: Commercial establishments charge approximately $37.50 a week in a low-income area, increase accordingly to $75 a week. Providers in low-income areas have had to pay their employees the same as the establishments located in the median-income areas.

Group care and family home care rates range in price from $45 to $75 a week depending on the ages of the children. With many of the parents being employed in the tourist industry, their incomes are fluctuating, for example, tips and employment.

Minimum wage prevails for child care employees. In many centers long-term employees are being paid a few cents above minimum wage rarely receiving any benefits. As their employees are educated, they move on to other fields for financial gains. The ratio provided for children should stay as it is in the State of Nevada.

Many parents choose a religious facility that will enable them to cope with the problems of life. Are the words, "In God We Trust," meaningless? These facilities should not be exempt from funding as long as they teach religion generally and not specifically.

Complaints. There is an existing system for employee and parent complaints but not for the caregiver who would like to report a parent who removes a child without notice when they are questioned about bruises.

Unlicensed providers: Funding is needed to enable licensing agencies to investigate and prosecute unlicensed persons caring for one or more children.

Liability insurance. A program should be initiated to regulate insurance and liability protection without exclusions.

We, the members of the Clark County Child Care association, respectfully submit these comments from our members for your thoughtful consideration.

Senator REID. Diane Williams, would you please proceed.

I would also indicate, you're with the Community Child Care Services in Reno.

STATEMENT OF DIANE WILLIAMS

Ms. WILLIAMS. I'm Diana Williams.

Community Child Care Services is a private, nonprofit child care center which provides affordable and quality child care for primarily low-income families. Currently we have nine spaces for 1- to 2-year-old children and 35 spaces for 2- to 5-year-old children. We are restricted to the number of children we are able to provide for because of the lack of funding.

We receive funding not only from the parents' fees, which are based on a sliding fee scale according to the monthly net income, but also from Washoe County, the city of Reno, Sparks, and we are a United Way agency so we apply for special fund raisers and special grants.

The majority of our parents are single women with usually more than one child to support. And according to a 1986 report of poverty in Nevada, women are more likely to be poor than men.

A lot of the statistics I hear have already been mentioned, so I'm going to move on.

How is poverty affecting our young children? I think we'll all agree every child deserves to grow up healthy with adequate food, clothing, shelter, and medical care. And ideally childhood should be a time of exploration, growth, joy, and security of knowing however financially depressed their parents are, that there will always be food on the table and a roof over their heads.

Nationally, I think we are failing to provide this most basic security to our children.

According to the Children's Defense Fund 1988 budget, in 1985, over 12 million children, 1 in every 5 children, lived in families below the poverty line. The children's poverty rate is higher now than at any time since the 1960's.

In Nevada in 1980 children under 6 were second to seniors in being the highest percentage of population in the poverty level. Nearly one of three persons in Nevada in poverty is under 3 years old. Poverty among Nevada's children tends to be concentrated among the very young, under 6 years old.

What is the affordable child care situation in Reno? There's only one other center that provides child care on a sliding fee scale. As I mentioned, we are the only center that I'm aware of that gives priority to the lower-income families and has care for toddler age. There's no centers that provide infant care on a sliding fee scale.

Due to the increase in single parents and number of two-parent families with both mother and father employed, the availability and quality of affordable child care is tremendously more to families who can least afford it.

Cost of full-time care ranges anywhere from, according to the Child Care Information Referral Service which was recently set up with our northern Nevada United Way, $20 to $100 a week. I have never heard of anyone paying only $20. It starts at least $56 to $80 and $100 minimum. And that's the average that came up. Most of our families earn less than $800 a month; have one, two, three children to support and pay on a sliding fee scale if they make $800 a month, $36.50 for preschool care, $42 for toddler care. With the second child those fees decrease.

Currently we have a waiting list of over 200 families that need immediate care. And although we hear there are many centers in the community that have openings, we do not experience that at all at the center.

I think the primary factor for keeping women and children in poverty is the lack of affordable child care. The number of children with working mothers has grown and there's been no corresponding increase in society's commitment to affordable and quality child care.

To build an adequate child care system in this county, we need a stronger private, Federal, and State partnership. And such a system would benefit children, family, and society.

At CCCS last month we experienced an alarming number of families that have enrolled into the program after they had been on a waiting list for 6 to 8 months and can't afford to stay in the program and go to work. The costs of going to work are exorbitant.

We have witnessed crises families where people have come in, the mother is staying at one shelter, the father at another. In this case the mother was on the street when the shelter sent her out with four children. A 20-month-old on the street. The mother got fed up with that and went back and put the children in the father's custody. The father is in the process of losing his job. We were brought into the case because we are a dropin center for abused and neglected children. And as it turned out the children were terrified, afraid and needed a warm, secure environment to be in. The children eventually went back with the dad.

The father was looking—hoping, unfortunately, to be put on welfare because at least they could get some help. There was no other help for this family. There's no child care available that they could take their children to that would just allow them—there aren't any funds available for these kinds of families.

Just in closing, one of the issues I feel real strongly about that I feel is getting passed up is the quality of care. We need to emphasis the quality of care. Teachers' salaries and the importance of teachers, and if we are not paying our teachers, giving teachers that recognition, we are not going to be having quality child care.

Senator REID. The last witness today will be Sandra Wright, commercial child care provider.

Sandra.

STATEMENT OF SANDRA WRIGHT

Ms. WRIGHT. Thank you.

I represent the Commercial Child Care Alliance of Nevada, which is an organization made up of owners of commercial for-profit child care centers.

We agree with many of the findings of the Act for Better Child Care Services of 1987. We also agree with the intent of the bill to enable low-income families to afford quality child care. However, as commercial child care center owners, we are concerned about the ABC bill because we have more to lose than anyone else providing child care services.

The definition of eligible child care provider described in the act on page 7 states, "Any facility which meets standards set forth in this act." Yet some areas of the bill specify nonprofit as a part of eligibility.

I'd like to state we worked with your people here and they have helped clarify a lot of things for us and really been helpful.

We urge supporters of the bill to include commercial for-profit child care centers along with other categories of eligible providers. By including commercial child care as an option for low-income families, they are not limited in their choice and their needs can be better served in the migration of the low-income families into the mainstream of society.

We question the exclusion of for-profit centers for exclusion from the bill where family home care is specifically included. These were pages 19, 20 and 30.

Family home care is for-profit child care. The term "nonprofit" is misleading. Many nonprofit centers do not operate on a sliding scale for tuition charges and do make a profit in the child care operation.

As a result of the survey taken by the Clark County Child Care Association listing available spaces for children in Las Vegas, we would suggest that an assessment be done in each State and local area in order to determine if additional child care programs are needed before making grants available for additional centers. If adequate space is already available in child care, perhaps a greater portion of the funds could be spent in direct aid to families.

As commercial child care owners we are concerned about quality child care. In today's competitive market we must offer quality care if we are to stay in business. Improving the quality of child care as described in the ABC bill is costly, and even though we agree with these findings, we also see the need to help keep the cost of child care affordable for the working parents who now have children in child care centers.

The certificate system described in the bill we felt was a good way or the voucher system that was discussed earlier, we felt was a good way for distributing funds for low-income families for use. We agree because we feel it's best to support the family rather than the institution. However, we are concerned about the cost of the program and possible duplication of services.

Within Clark County the licensing and regulatory boards are working to improve and enforce child care regulations.

Thank you for hearing us today.

Senator REID. Thank you very much.

In closing, let me comment about some of the things brought up by this panel.

I think Isabel—Mrs. Pfeifer, your point regarding liability insurance is certainly well taken. And it's something that needs to be addressed.

We are advised that many relatively small child care facilities in Nevada pay up to $20,000 for insurance. And that legislation does have no reference to the high cost of liability insurance, and that's something we must address.

Also, the point regarding involvement of the private sector, that's addressed in the bill. Maybe not significantly enough, but that's something we'll certainly review.

I'm impressed with the fact, if my information is correct, Anita, that the national organization, the umbrella group of the Nevada Women's Political Caucus has been talking about some type of affordable child care since the early seventies?

Ms. Laruy. Yes.

Senator Reid. So child care is something you've been trying for for some time?

Ms. Laruy. Absolutely.

Senator Reid. There has not been enough done, as indicated in Anita's testimony here today, that relates to the unique problems we have here in Nevada with the shift work. Whether you're in Reno or Las Vegas, Lake Tahoe, it really doesn't matter, we have a unique situation. We are 24-hour cities and we must address that unique problem here in Nevada.

Connie, I think your testimony was interesting. I think there are some things in the legislation that I'm working with that we can address ourselves to. However, many of the things that you talk about in your legislation, and you indicated that, the duplication, some of the other complexities that you mentioned, are problems that relate to local government. And I don't want to really change that.

The testimony that you gave, Diane, was very moving. I think it's important that we again repeat that the work that you do is extremely interesting because of the sliding scale that you mentioned.

You also talked about having 200 children still on the waiting list. And as I indicated to Dr. Almeida when he was here, that 200 that's on the waiting list would be more if people thought they stood any chance of getting on. So that 200 is even a misleading figure.

Again, we have a problem that has certainly became very obvious today, in that toddlers, babies up to 1 year of age, really have no place to go.

I would mention that this bill does contain language that would compensate infant-toddler care at a higher rate, in an attempt to encourage that really scarce resource that we have.

Also, I think the testimony that was given by you, Sandra, as it relates to commercial, we have to do something about that. It's a difficult problem because we always run into the situation that we are afraid of some of the very large conglomerates coming in and soaking up all the moneys that are given to the States. I don't know how we are going to balance that. But it's obvious from the testimony here today and other information I received that we must address that. Because the for-profit facilities do render service to the problem that we are talking about.

Let me make sure I've covered everything here.

Thank you very much for your testimony.

In closing, let me just say this. I indicated earlier that this record will be kept open. And anyone wishing to submit testimony will be able to do so.

There isn't anyone that could come to this hearing today and hear the factual testimony given, the very personal statements given, the heart-rendering testimony given by Judge McGroarty, that certainly wouldn't open your eyes to a problem that exists.

Now, with any legislation that's introduced, I have yet to see a perfect piece of legislation. Certainly the ABC bill is not a perfect piece of legislation. But it certainly is going to open a dialog in this country. Because the testimony given here today in Las Vegas, NV, is only one aspect of testimony that could be rendered all over this country. We have some problems that relate to child care that we can't ignore and neglect.

I'm grateful for my staff which worked very hard in interviewing witnesses, talking to scores of people in person, on the telephone, reviewing letters, and arranging the physical facilities here. I extend my appreciation to UNLV for allowing us this beautiful facility, and the many people that made this hearing possible.

But this, I again repeat, is only a beginning step in a historic movement that's going to address a problem that exists in this country.

PETITIONS

[CLERK'S NOTE.—During the hearing petitions were written up by individuals showing their support for child care support which will be placed in the record.]

PETITIONS

To whom it may concern, I strongly suggest subsidized child care.

MATTIE HARRIS.

To whom it may concern: I am in favor of the child care subsidizing program. We really need this program very much.

MRS. DELUA JOHNSON.

We need the percentage cut off the nursery because a lot of us, as me myself, with three kids and no one to help me. I feel as if I'm working for nothing but to pay child care. If that's the case, I can stay home and be penniless and not so tired and worn out. Help us out. We need it. We cannot afford to work for child care. There are other things to pay for other than child care.

Thank you.

SENCERAY JOSHUA.

I'd like to say that I support subsidized child care. I don't have kids myself, but many of my friends do have kids, and they often tell me how expensive child care has become. I'm sure any help would be a great help to all families.

MARIE BIAS.

The reason that I believe that the Government should subsidize child care is that there are too many latch children at home today. Not becuase of parents who are not at home, but because they are at work and cannot afford the cost of child care. I support this wholeheartedly.

MARSHA MBAMALU.

I believe we are in need of day care centers. I am a concerned grandparent, so I am in support of child care subsidized care.

DOROTHY LYONS.

I support child subsidize.

DARRELL D. GRIFFIN.

To whom it may concern: I think the child care is a great idea because some mothers can't work because of no sitters. It will help a lot of mothers get motivated. Subsidizing child care would be great.

TERIO FISH.

I support subsidizing child care for all parent(s).

GENE ALEXANDER.

I think Nevada needs subsidized child care which would allow many women to go to work and be independent of welfare so that children are not left alone without supervision.

MAGGIE TOWNS.

I think we should have subsidized benefit child care because some of these child care nursery is to high. Some of us are single parents and we can't work if we don't have child care and we can't live if we have to pay a nursery to babysit our kids what we make a day.

Thank you.

JOYCE JENKINS.

To whom it may concern: My husband and myself support subsidized child care. It is very hard to make ends meet and pay for child support with a husband helping so it has to be really tough without a husband. And we all have to work in these days. I sure would hate to have to leave my baby (child) home alone.

JOAN COTTLE.

I feel that subsidized child care is needed. I support the issue 100 percent. A mother can't afford to work and stay at home with their kids. Parents need better care for their kids while they are making a living for them.

SHARON HAYWOOD.

I strongly support subsidized child care because we need it for our children.

ENITA R. THOMAS.

I think subsidized child care is needed because there are many mothers that want to work but cannot pay for child care. They are forced to stay at home and live on welfare, not by choice but because of the high child care cost.

MARGIE HUGHES.

I support subsidized child care.

IDA ETHRIDGE.

To whom it may concern: I support subsidized child care.

EDNA REDIC.

To whom it may concern: I, Sharon, support subsidized child care.

SHARON WESLEY.

To whom it may concern: I support subsidized care.

FLORENCE WASHINGTON.

To whom it may concern: I support subsidized child care.

GERTRUDE BUTLER.

I support subsidized child care.

PAULINE A. LOGAN.

To whom it may concern: I support subsidized child care.

GENEVA WALLACE.

To whom it may concern: I myself approve of subsidized child care. I feel very strongly of this issue.

MS. CHERYL JOHNSON.

I support subsidized child care.

FASHA.

I support subsidized child care.

RENELL.

I support subsidized child care. I think that the working mothers should have some type of child care in our community.

P. Jones.

The undersigned believe that Las Vegas, Nevada, has a critical need for subsidized child care. We feel the high cost of child care has significantly affected a large percentage of low income and welfare from obtaining employment and continuing education that would lead to employment. Also the high cost of child care has forced parents to leave their children unattended. This situation adds not only to the growing number of latch key children but also could be a factor in juvenile delinquency and drug abuse.

Jean S. Childs.
Janis Cross.
Myrties Haythorne.
Mabelene Anderson.
Lessie B. Collins.
Pat Montes de Oda.
Cecile Green.
Slyvia S. Rodgers.
Regina Beauregard.
George Ann Selandel.
Emma Matthews.
Phyllis Cooper.
E. Reed.
Cynthia Henderson.
Sheila Banks.
Magdalena Gonzalez.
Delores Fluellen.
Lillie Scroggins.
Rosie Johnson.
Sylvia F. Rivers.
Sandra Smith.
Sarah Minter.
Carol Strode.
Michael Stewart.
Jennell Graves.
Artina Crook.
Victoria Hudson.
Barbara Smith.
Emma Wash.
Eliza Thomas.
Shirley Nash.
Cassandra L. Grayson.
Mary Mosby.
Judith Moran.
Cristine S. Ross.
C——— Parris-Godina.

CONCLUSION OF HEARING

Senator Reid. Thank you very much. That will conclude this hearing. This subcommittee stands in recess.

[Whereupon, at 1 p.m., Saturday, February 13, the hearing was concluded, and the subcommittee was recessed, to reconvene at the call of the Chair.]

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